

Get Ready for Great Attendance!

Great attendance leads to great learning—not just for your child but the whole class!

It's so important that children attend school every day. Getting to school everyday and on time allows kids to keep up with school work and learn along with their peers.

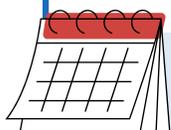
You can set your child up for a year of great attendance before the school year even begins. Just follow these steps to success!

In the United States, children are required by law to attend school from around the age of 6 to around the age of 17.

To see your state's school attendance laws click here:

bit.ly/attendance_school 

Before school begins:



Print out a copy of the school calendar so you know when school breaks and half-days happen—these can be great times to schedule appointments so your child does not have to miss school for things like well-visits or dental checkups.

Check the school website to make sure you know the time school begins and ends.

Add the number for the school office to your contact list. You can call to ask questions. You can call if you need help getting your child to school. And you **MUST** call if your child is ever absent.

Make sure you know **how your child is getting to and from school everyday**. Are they riding the bus? Going by car? Walking or using public transportation? If you do not know, call the school to discuss your options. You can always ask for an interpreter if you need language assistance.



Getting to school:

If they're riding the school bus:

- Save the number for the bus company on your phone.
- Call to ask about the steps for signing your child up.
- Ask where your child will be picked up and dropped off and at what time. You'll need to get to the bus stop a few minutes early.



If they're going by car:

- Call the school to ask what time you need to drop them off and where.
- Ask if there are any drop-off rules you need to know about.

If they're walking or using public transportation:

- Practice the route to school.
- Figure out when your child needs to leave the house in the morning to get to school on time.



Have a plan for how you will get your child to school if they miss a bus or you can't drive them. Can a family member help? A neighbor? The school can help you plan too.

Decide your "get ready routine":

- Talk with your child about **all the steps for getting ready in the morning**. Write the steps down too! For example: Wake up, get dressed, brush teeth.
- There may be some steps your child can do **the night before**, like packing their backpack and picking out their clothes. Write these down too!
- **Start practicing this routine** a week or two before school starts. This will help your child feel ready!

Remember, throughout the year, your school is there to help you make sure your child gets to school everyday and on time. If you find that you are having trouble getting your child to school, reach out. You'll also find helpful advice here:

bit.ly/video_attendance

Talk about any feelings your child may have about school. Just naming these feelings—**anxious, excited**—helps kids feel more ready and in control!

Talk about things your child is looking forward to learning and doing in school this year. Great attendance is key to making these exciting things happen!

