

Help your child

SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Building the habit of good attendance starts in Kindergarten



ATTENDANCE
MATTERS

DID YOU KNOW?

- Regular attendance helps children feel better about school - and themselves.
- Missing 10% (or about 18 days) makes it harder for children to learn how to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss a day or two of school every few weeks.
- Good attendance is a life skill that will help children do well in high school, post secondary & work.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance later on.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to adjust to help children catch up.

You can give your child the foundation to succeed by teaching them about good attendance, and that being on time matters.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Create a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before school.
- Before the first day of school, find out what time school starts and introduce your child to their teachers and classmates.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to your child's teacher, or school administrators for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbour, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When do Absences become a problem?

Chronic Absence

18 or more days

Warning Signs

10 to 17 days

Satisfactory

9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 179-day school year.



For more on school attendance, visit gppsd.ab.ca/parents

