**Good Attendance Makes All the Difference!**

**Help Your Child Succeed in School by Building the Habit of Good Attendance Early**

**School Success Goes Hand-in-Hand With Good Attendance!**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Starting in preschool, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent of school can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance and missed learning opportunities.
- Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school - and themselves.
- Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.
- Good attendance will help students do well in high school, college and at work.
- Research shows that the earlier a student learns that school is his or her job and that he or she has important work to do, the more successful children will be in their education.
- Learning begins the moment students settle into their morning routines. When a child is late for school, even by a few minutes, learning is interrupted.
- Two (2) absences a month = 18 absences a year. If a child has 18 absences per year, by the end of Grade 4 they would have missed ½ a year of school, and by the time they finish Grade 9 they have missed one full year of school!

**WAYS TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP A ROUTINE TO BE PRESENT AND ON TIME FOR SCHOOL:**

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Eat a good breakfast to ensure students are ready to learn.
- Talk to your child about the importance of school.
- Ask your child what they did at school each day and make it a positive detailed conversation.
- Don’t let your child stay home unless he/she is 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 teachers, Family Service Advocates or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT, PLEASE:

1. Call the school to report the absence.
2. Send a note to the teacher explaining the reason for the absence.
3. If you take your child to the doctor because of illness, get a note and provide the note to the school.
   **This note explains an absence, it does not excuses it.**
4. Check to see if there is any work your son/daughter could do at home to make up any time that was missed.
5. Ask your school if there are any other steps you must take.

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