



Promoting Good Attendance All Winter Long



Every winter, bad weather — snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains in warmer climates — can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?



1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.

- a. Check to see if your child can get a ride with other families who have a reliable car that can manage the snow.
- b. Form a “walking school bus” with other families to get students to school safely.
- c. Join other families in a snow shovel brigade to clear the sidewalks closest to the school.
- d. Ask if school administrators have developed plans for transporting students.

2. Keep your children healthy.

- a. Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- b. Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
- c. Stress hand washing, particularly in the winter months. Send your child to school with a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Research shows that something as simple as hand washing can improve attendance.
- d. Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health providers allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.