



Parental Advice for Raising Attendance

1. Help your child understand why going to school everyday matters. Discuss what they're missing out on and how showing up to school every day is an important skill that will help them become successful in life. It will help them keep a job and learn what they need to know and be able to do to realize their hopes and dreams.
2. Create attendance goals with your child and track their progress in a notebook or calendar. Also, you can try giving them small rewards for not missing school, such as a later bedtime on Saturday and Sunday.
3. Make attendance a priority by giving your children regular bedtimes. For older children make sure they understand the connection between school success and chronic absenteeism. Schools can also engage students with rewards, contests, etc.
4. Develop a backup plan for ensuring that your child gets to school.
5. Recruit your child's teacher as a partner. Teachers may have insights into why your child may be missing school or why they don't want to attend school.
6. Request the attendance data for your child's school. Also, ask the principal if chronic absenteeism is a schoolwide problem. Usually, parents think they're the only ones going through this problem, but there may be a lot of parents facing the same issue.
7. Work with other people in your network to reduce common barriers to your child's attendance, such as the absence of reliable transportation or long term health problems.
8. Reach out to your child school for assistance and support. The headteacher, your child's teacher, counsellors, and nurses are all available to help you. All you have to do is ask.
9. Find out whether your child's school offers rewards and incentives for students that improve their attendance. Ensure that your school doesn't just recognise perfect attendance, but also finds ways to encourage and recognize students that have significantly improved their attendance. If you have the time, volunteer to help with award and recognition ceremonies. For instance, you could be responsible for creating award certificates or even reaching out to local businesses to ask them to contribute rewards and incentives like food items and gift cards.