

Early Absences Lead to School Problems Later

You woke up late and you wonder whether to take your child to school. After all, will one absence matter? The answer is yes. A large-scale review of research shows that children put their entire school career at risk when they are absent in the early years. The learning they miss is hard to make up.

Still it can be a challenge to get a family out the door on time. Here's how:

- **Get ready the night before.** Lay out what your child will wear. Make sure he/she has everything they need to take to school.
- **Establish routines.** Create a chart of the things your child needs to do each day. When it's a routine, he/she won't argue about it.
- **Allow extra time.** Set your alarm clock a few minutes early. Allow yourself an extra 5-10 minutes to get your child to school.



An article from *The Parent Institute*: Practical ideas for parents to help their children

Source: H. N. Chang with M. Romero, *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty.