

Not sure?

If you are not sure whether to send your child to school, call the school nurse for consultation.

Generally speaking, don't send the child to school for the nurse to make the decision unless the school asks you to.

If you're in doubt, call or visit your child's physician.

But what do you do when your child tells you (s)he "doesn't feel well," and you have serious doubts that (s)he is really sick?

Maybe you explain to him/her that there are times when each of us doesn't feel so great, doesn't feel quite up to par, **but we go to work anyway.**

Maybe you point out that sometimes you have to go out there into the world of school or a job or other responsibilities, **even if you are not 100% comfortable.**

You help your child make the **distinction between being uncomfortable and being really sick.**

Ensuring your child's regular school attendance is a major way for you to **help your child learn how to fulfill one's responsibility.**

No Big Deal?

YES IT IS!

Helping your child succeed is a very big deal.

Your school is willing to help. If you are having a problem getting your child to attend regularly, call the school. They have personnel who are able to work with you and help you.

Don't cover up the real problem by calling your child in "sick" when (s)he really isn't. That only increases the problem.

The child who misses school today without a valid reason could become the dropout of the future. That could be a big deal. Especially if it's your child.

Excessive absences could result in a referral to truancy intervention services.

Don't let it happen!

Help is just a phone call away.

(815) 972-4384

Regional Attendance Cooperative

No Big Deal!

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No Big Deal

Your child didn't want to go to school today. (S)he said (S)he didn't feel well. So you let your child stay home.

No Big Deal

It's very cold outside and you don't have a car available to drive your child to school. So you let him/her stay home.

No Big Deal

You usually drive your child to school but your car won't start today. So you let your child stay home.

No Big Deal

Your child frequently arrives a few minutes late for school because of the many things that have to be done as part of the busy morning routine.

No Big Deal

Or Is It?

What is your child learning from you about the importance of attending school?

What would your child learn from you about following through on commitments on the situations just described?

You want your child to be successful...In school... In life.

What kind of pattern is your child forming?

What are you doing to contribute to that pattern?

You have the responsibility of ensuring the regular attendance of your child at school.

Why is regular attendance so important? Because if your child frequently is absent, (s)he misses valuable contact with classmates, class instruction and group discussion, even though (s)he may make up written work.

Of course, there are some valid reasons for keeping your child home from school:

- significant illness
- family emergency
- observance of a religious holiday
- death in the immediate family
- circumstances which cause you concern for the safety or health of your child

What is "significant illness"?

School nurses have come up with some guidelines for you to use in deciding when your child is too ill to be in school.

Keep your child home:

1. If a rash is present that has not been evaluated by a physician.
2. If your child's oral temperature exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 1-2 degrees above the child's normal temperature. A child with such a fever should remain home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal.
3. If the child vomits and continues to experience nausea and/or vomiting.
4. If your child complains of severe, persistent pain. The symptom should be referred to a physician for evaluation.
5. If your child shows signs of upper respiratory infection (cold symptoms) **serious enough to interfere** with the child's ability to learn.
6. If there are signs of conjunctivitis ("pinkeye") with matter coming from one or both eyes, itching, crusts on eyelids. The child should be evaluated by a physician.
7. If there are open sores that have not been evaluated by a physician.
8. If there are signs of infestation with lice (nits in the hair, itchy scalp). The child should be evaluated for treatment with a pediculicide.