

## 1 The Law

Whilst the legal requirements for attendance do not apply to children under 5, regular routines for young children support the settling-in process and enhance their sense of security. They can also foster good habits for children's later life. Even if a child only has a part time place regular attendance is still important.

## 7 What to do if you are worried

Working together will get the best results for your child. Everyone wants them to reach their full potential. Talk to the class teacher/key worker if you are worried. Ask for advice, remember they have experience. Don't compare your child to how other children are doing. Everyone is on their own journey. Ask to make an appointment with someone else in school such as the SENDCO, family liaison officer or Early Year lead if you are still worried.

**Discuss your worries with the school at the earliest opportunity - they want to help.**

## 6 Learning and development

Often underachievement can be linked back to poor attendance in Reception and Nursery. Never underestimate how much they are learning. A huge amount of key reading, writing and maths skills are covered.

Any gaps in attendance means they have missed new phonics sound, which makes reading hard later.

Regular attendance also boosts your child's self esteem as they can see themselves making progress and succeeding.

**Every week lost = 30 hours of learning**

## 2 Why it matters

All parents want the best for their children. Your child will only get one chance at school and EYFS is such a critical part of their learning journey. Research shows that children with poor attendance are at a disadvantage later in life. They often:

- Find it harder to make and maintain friendships
- Are less likely to gain good qualifications
- Earn lower wages
- Have a higher chance of being unemployed
- Have low self-esteem

**Every School Day Matters**

## 3

### Getting it right from the start

Poor attendance and punctuality, even at the earliest age, can affect achievement in later life. Children learn and develop more from birth to 5 years old than at any other time. Missing days in Early Years leads gaps in learning later.

Understanding that going to school is what we do will help make life easier in the future and also ensure your child accesses all the learning available to them.

## 4

### Secure Relationships

Young children find it easier to build and maintain a range of relationships when they regularly attend nursery/school.

For some families, particularly at times of stress, the child's regular attendance at school/nursery allows parents to get other things done and helps them enjoy spending time with the child when he or she is at home.

www.slough.gov.uk  
**Slough**  
Borough Council

## Attendance in EYFS



## Information for Parents

## 5

### Good Habits

Establishing good habits from the start helps children to settle more quickly into new settings and routines. Children who attend every planned session develop a feel for the rhythm of the week and gain a sense of security from some regular elements.

**Tips:** Have a regular bed time; prepare for the morning by packing a bag the night before and setting out clothes; talk together about the fun things they will do at school.

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