

# 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.

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

### 2. Keep your children healthy.

- Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
- 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.
- 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.