



Two Wells Community Children's Centre

Attendance Action Plan

It is no secret that “children who attend early childhood educational programs show better performance and progress in their early school years in both intellectual and social domains.” (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2011:60)

At Two Wells Community Children's Centre we value the importance of children attending our educational programs to their full potential. This means that children enrolled in the preschool program have 15 hours a week access and potential attendance in high quality educational programs.

Is regular attendance important? Yes, from the very first day! If children and students miss the basic skills in the early years of schooling they often experience learning difficulties later on. It has been shown that irregular attendance in the early school years can lead to poor patterns of attendance in primary and then secondary years.

Must I notify the preschool if my child has been away? Yes. On your child's return, a note should be supplied to cover the days missed. You are also encouraged to contact the preschool if your child will be away. If your child has seen a medical practitioner (eg doctor, dentist) a note or certificate from the practitioner will help explain the absence.

Should I notify the preschool or school if my child refuses to go?

Yes. You should immediately contact the preschool or school to seek assistance.

What assistance is available?

There are many staff members who can assist you if attendance is an issue for your child. You can discuss your concerns with your child's teacher or preschool director.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

- Missing one day a week of school from reception to year 10 means missing two years and one term of schooling.
- There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.
- Frequent absences make it difficult for teachers who have to continually re-teach information and skills.
- Being half an hour late to school each day from reception to year 10 equals missing one year and one-and-a-half terms of schooling.
- Patterns of attendance/absence are set up in the early years of schooling and preschool.

- Being absent five days a term from reception to year 10 adds up to more than one year of missed schooling.
- Girls are absent more often than boys.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with their peers.
- Indigenous students are absent twice as much as non-indigenous students.
- Research shows that students who are often absent from school are likely to earn less than their peers as adults

We aim to achieve high attendance rates for all children attending the centre.

Our action plan

- ***Promote families phoning, texting or using Flexibuzz app.to inform the service for any days their child will be absent.***
- ***If a child has been absent for 2 or more days without notice from the family, we will give a courtesy call to the family.***
- ***Plan school visits/special events on the shorter days to encourage attendance.***
- ***Highlight absences on sign in sheets to make staff and families more aware. Enter absences on EYS.***
- ***Record attendance patterns on assessments.***

Action Plan reviewed: April 2018

Signed _____

Next review: April 2020

Signed _____

References:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2011). Headline Indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing 2011.

DECD <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/attendance/attendance/>