



The Importance of Attendance in the Early Years

Children learn and develop more from birth to five years than at any other time in their lives and any gaps in their learning by the end of the Early Years could potentially, on average, double by the end of primary schooling.

Our Fellside Early Years team have a very important role to play in encouraging and establishing good attendance habits. This is vital both in ensuring that children make the best possible progress and that any gaps in learning are minimised, and also in establishing good habits which will continue throughout their education and into later life.

Good attendance in the Early Years leads to:

- the best opportunities for social development, including making friends and learning how to get on with others;
- the best opportunities for children to learn and develop their skills and learn through play, this includes early language, reading and maths skills and
- the development of good habits for future school attendance and good attendance and punctuality skills into adulthood

Families can encourage good attendance by:

- having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- preparing for the morning routine by packing a bag the night before and setting out clothes
- talking together about all the fun their child will have at school
- having a back-up plan for getting there if something happens
- arranging routine medical appointments, outings and holidays for the times their child does not attend school
- talking to their child's teacher if there are any concerns or anxieties
- working with their child to develop healthy hygiene practices