

## Attendance and Early Literacy: Growing Strong Readers & Writers

When students attend school regularly, they get more chances to learn how to read, write, and understand the world around them. Early reading skills help learners in every subject. These skills are linked to success throughout their school experience and life. Missing just a few days each month can make it harder for your student to catch up, especially when they are learning to read.

### Why Regular Attendance Matters for Reading & Writing

- Being in school helps students feel like they belong. When learners feel safe, welcome, and included, they are more likely to be excited about learning and want to come to school.
- Daily practice helps build strong reading skills. Students learn to read by listening, speaking, writing, and practicing every day.
- Students who miss school miss key lessons. Teachers plan activities that build on each other. It's hard for students to understand if they missed learning the steps along the way.

### Learning to Read Is a Team Effort

Parents, grandparents, guardians, extended family members and caregivers are the first teachers and storytellers a student has; they have a significant impact on a young person's literacy journey. Families, schools, and communities all play a part in helping young learners to grow as readers and writers. Here are a few ideas to support literacy at home. Please find more ideas in [Literacy and Language at Home and in our Communities](#).

- Talk with your student about what they are learning, asking questions like:
  - What was the best part of your day? What did you read about today?
  - Was anything hard for you today? How did you handle it?
- Read together at home, in any language, even for a few minutes a day.
  - Ask your young learner questions about what you have read together.
- Encourage singing, chanting, rhyming, storytelling, reading aloud and more. These joyful activities help young learners build important skills like learning new words, hearing sounds in words, and understanding stories
- Ask your student's teacher how you can support learning and attendance at home. Working together can give you helpful tools and ideas. The teacher can share what your young learner is doing well and where they might need extra support. When families and schools share this information, it becomes easier to help early readers grow and succeed all year long.
- Connect with local groups like libraries, child care programs, and reading centers.

**Children begin literacy learning in their homes and communities, where language, culture, and identity are affirmed by families and caregivers who serve as important first teachers and storytellers. OREGON'S EARLY LITERACY FRAMEWORK , p 5.**

Every student can become a strong reader and writer and deserves the chance to take part in their learning. Your student's unique culture, background, experiences, and knowledge are important strengths in the classroom and school. Families and caregivers are key partners to support student learning. Reading and regular attendance are shared responsibilities, and we want to work together for the lifelong success of your student.