

TO SEND OR NOT TO SEND?

How does a parent decide when to send a child to school or not?

Maryland State Law is very specific. It requires parents to send a child to school every school day. The daily decision should always be weighted in favor of sending your child to school. In other words, unless there is a serious reason — **SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.**

But suppose my child complains of not feeling well...what then?

Take your child's temperature. If the child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, he should remain at home in bed for the day.

Sometimes, my child says he is sick. I let him stay home from school, but then he wants to play outside. What should I do?

If you, as a parent, have decided that your child is too sick to be in school — the child should be in bed. If your child feels well enough to play outside — bring him to school.

Suppose he threw up in the middle of the night?

If your child threw up during the night or before school, he should remain at home in bed. Do not give him any solid food, but when the vomiting has slowed, give him clear liquids for the rest of the day. If he has no fever and is feeling better (no longer vomiting), send him to school the next day. If the vomiting lasts longer than a few hours or you are unsure, call your doctor or the school nurse.

My child has asthma. Suppose she has an asthma attack during the night or before school? Should I send her to school?

Make sure your doctor is aware of the asthma attack. If the child is no longer wheezing, and if there is medication for her in school, call the school nurse and let her know the problem. The school nurse will monitor her and call you if there is any problem. Be sure the nurse has updated doctor's orders and medication for your child.

What if my child has a cold or sore throat?

Take the child's temperature. If the child does not have a fever, send him to school. (The Centers for Disease Control recommend a throat culture for any sore throat lasting three days or more.) Any time you are in doubt – check with your doctor or the school nurse.

My doctor has put my child on an antibiotic. Should he stay home until it is finished?

If your doctor has put your child on an antibiotic, after 48 hours, your child is no longer contagious and may return to school. However, make sure your child finishes all the medication. If your child needs to take any medication in school, your doctor may write an order for the nurse on his prescription pad or he may fax it to the school. Any medication given by the nurse has to have a doctor's order.

Sometimes we get up late. Should I send my child then?

Yes - - being late is better than being absent.

**When your child is in school, he is learning important skills needed to succeed in life. Good attendance conveys an attitude of respect for learning.
SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.**