

School Refusal: Every School Day Counts

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SESLHD



Case Example: David



School-Link SESLHD

- Received a grant 2015
- School refusal raised as a concern
- Interagency Working Party established
- Resource package launched December 2016



The resource package

- Early intervention
- Components:
- Booklet
 - Parent handout
 - Training school personnel K – 12



The Booklet

- Class teacher: A pivotal position
- Behaviours & Attendance patterns of concern



The Booklet

“School refusal could be thought of as a symptom, like when a child develops a fever. Investigating to find out the cause early on and then taking appropriate steps is the best way to keep the situation from developing into something more serious.”
(page 3) - Professor Rhoshel Lenroot



The Booklet

Guideline:

Two days or more absent over a 2 week period

esp concerning if absent days have fallen on Mondays, after holidays, after camps or after sports days



Algorithm

- Page 8 of the booklet
- Stepped approach
- School processes /protocols
- Meeting/plan/review



The Booklet

- School systems that support attendance
- Communicating with parents/ carers
- Resources



Parent & Carer Hand Out

- Helping parents/ carers identify & respond to school refusal
- What can be done at home
- Who to contact at school
- Useful links and resources



Training Package

- Ready-to-go presentation to be used at school meetings
- Terms 1 & 2 roll out with DoE, Sydney Catholic Schools and Independent School Counsellors + Wellbeing staff (SESLHD)



Training Package

- Pre & Post Evaluations
- Terms 3 & 4: pending outcomes of evaluation, training package to be made available to other State based School-Link Coordinators



The Booklet

Everybody has a responsibility to help children
Families, carers, the student, the school and the community

All kids in NSW must go to school by the time they turn 6. They must go to school or be involved in training or employment up to the age of 17. The law says they must attend school **EVERYDAY**.
If they do not go to school they will fall behind in their learning. Children who go to school every day do better and have more opportunities.

Missing school matters and *every day counts*

If kids go to school...



Consent to reprint given by Council of Catholic School Parents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parent Committee 2014.

Boston

September 2016!

NSW
School-Link
Health and Education Working Together

NSW
Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

2 Absences per month
x 9 Months of school

Likely to fail reading

As early as elementary school, students who miss just two days per month are more likely to fail to read and less likely to graduate high school.

Find help at AbsencesAddUp.org



2 Absences per month
x 9 Months of school

Likely to fail a grade

As early as elementary school, students who miss just two days per month are more likely to fail to read and less likely to graduate high school.

Find help at AbsencesAddUp.org



Absences Add Up Campaign

AbsencesAddUp.org



For PDF versions of the School refusal package:

www.health.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Youth Health Forum presentations'

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