

# The Impact of Tardiness on School Success

## **Did You Know?**

Tardiness can significantly impact your child's success at school. At Oconee Christian Academy, we emphasize the importance of being at your desk before 8:00 AM for good reason. Research from the U.S. Department of Education shows that punctuality is key to academic success and positive behavior.

## **Why Mornings Matter**

The morning hours are the most crucial for learning because students are at their most attentive. When a student is tardy, they miss these vital learning moments and create a distraction for their classmates.

## **Academics & Achievement**

Frequent tardiness can lead to lower GPAs, lower standardized test scores, and lower graduation rates. In fact, being habitually late in elementary and middle school is linked to struggles in high school.

## **Behavioral Impact**

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who are often tardy tend to have higher rates of suspension and disciplinary issues. Tardiness can make students feel disconnected from school, leading to more behavior problems and even dropping out.

## **The Ripple Effect**

When a student arrives late, it doesn't just affect them. Teachers often have to pause their lessons, disrupting the class and causing other students to lose focus. This can lead to more behavior issues and less effective learning for everyone.

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## **Why Might Your Child Be Late?**

- Trouble getting to bed or out of bed
- Difficulty finding clothes, books, homework, or their school bag
- School lunches aren't ready
- Homework isn't completed
- Slow to eat breakfast
- Watching TV too late or during the morning rush
- Struggling with separation anxiety

## **Simple Solutions for a Smooth Morning**

- Set a consistent bedtime and wake-up time.
- Prepare uniforms and school bags the night before.
- Make lunches the night before.
- Establish set times for breakfast and homework.
- Limit TV time to appropriate hours.
- Offer positive encouragement and rewards for completing tasks.
- Encourage morning playtime with friends to make drop-off easier.

## **Building Lifelong Habits**

Punctuality is more than just arriving on time—it's a life skill. As parents, we understand the importance of being on time for work and appointments, and it's vital to model this for our children. Arriving at school on time, staying until the end of the day, and avoiding unnecessary absences are all crucial for your child's success.

We can't teach your children if they're not here. Every minute counts. Let's work together to instill the habit of punctuality from a young age, setting them up for success in school and in life.

 **Let's make every moment matter!**