



*"Supporting Parents' Involvement  
in the Development and  
Education of Their Children"*



PO Box 218; Sturgis, SD 57785  
1-800-219-6247  
[www.bhssc.org/sdprn](http://www.bhssc.org/sdprn)

## **Recognize Early Warning Signs of School Difficulties**

How will you know if your child is making good progress in reading and writing? What are some early signs that will tell you that your child is having trouble in school? Here are some hints to help you recognize these problems:

Watch for the following signs:

- Your child doesn't want to go to school in the morning.
- Your child squints or has trouble seeing books close up or objects far away.
- Your child doesn't want to do his or her homework
- Your child is skipping school
- Your child is not bringing home notes from school
- Your child is becoming a behavior problem at school
- Your child is bringing home poor grades

If you notice any of the above warning signs, what should you do?

- Call the school. Ask your child's teacher how well he or she is progressing in acquiring the basic reading and writing skills.
- Ask the teacher what you can do to help your child learn these skills.
- Ask that the school nurse test your child's eyes and ears to make sure that vision or hearing is not causing a problem.
- Make an appointment to visit your child's classroom to observe.
- Ask the teacher to mail home important notes or arrange to pick up your child's notes at school once a week.
- Ask the teacher for frequent progress reports on your child.
- Have the school attendance office call you immediately if your child is marked absent.
- Continue to stress the importance of education and support the school in any comments you make to your child.
- Offer to help your child with homework—but don't do all the work yourself.

Source: RMC Research, Denver, Colorado.