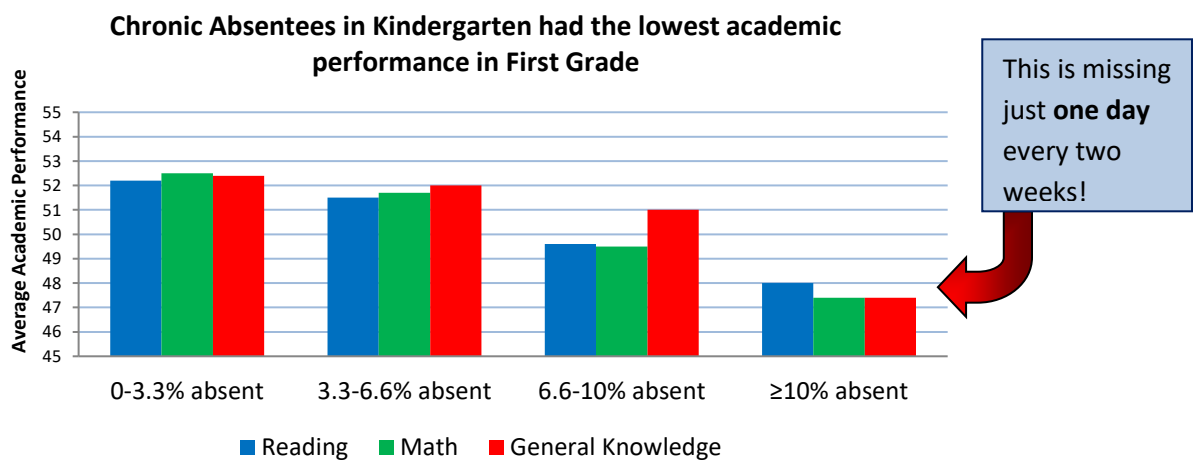


## Is good attendance in kindergarten really that important?

**YES IT IS!!!** Kindergarten is critical for future learning. Your child will be learning important skills that will “set the course” for his or her school success!

Just look at these facts:

**Ability to learn** – children who are absent too much (more than 10% of the time, or 18 days in a full school year) **do less well in first grade**. For some groups the difference is even greater. *The graph shows how children who miss 10% or more school days perform much more poorly in Reading, Math, and General Knowledge.*



Source: Hedy Chang, *Present, Engaged and Accounted for: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*

**Fact:** One in ten kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students miss a **month** of school during the school year when all their absences are added up. That is critical learning being missed. Children who do not learn the building blocks and basic skills in the early grades must work much harder to stay afloat as they go on. Many never catch up.

**Fact:** Chronic absence is the single strongest predictor of dropping out of school before graduation. Students who drop out of school are much more likely to be poor, unemployed, have substance abuse problems, be teen parents, and be involved with the law.

Students who miss school miss a lot. They miss the social experiences and connecting that other children are having – lessons and relationships that help with fitting in and succeeding in school and life.

Missing school is stressful for children since they must learn what they missed, and also what is being taught that day. It can put them in an academic hole that they cannot climb out of.

**Don't let this happen to your child!**

*We know that sometimes families face barriers. Let us know what we can do to help. ~Mrs. Brickley, principal*