



Ensure that you know the rules that apply to your child's absence from school

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child comes to school every day. If your child has been absent from school without permission (unapproved absence), the child and youth benefit that you receive can be withdrawn.

Who do the rules apply to?

The rules apply to all children in state schools.

What is unapproved absence?

Unapproved absence is when your child is absent from school without a legitimate reason or when the school has not given your child permission to be absent. An example of legitimate absence from school is when a child is ill.

When may your child remain at home instead of going to school?

If your child is ill, he or she may stay at home. But please remember to inform the school that your child is ill on the same day that they are ill. A visit to the doctor or dentist is also permitted. Your child may also be permitted to be absent from school under special circumstances, e.g. in order to participate in a major family event – but only after the school has given specific permission beforehand. All other absences are unapproved.

When can unapproved absence lead to financial consequences?

Your child must attend school every day, unless the school gives permission for your child to stay at home. If your child has an unapproved absence rate of 15% in a quarter (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December), you risk the withdrawal of child and youth benefit for a quarter.

An unapproved absence rate of 15% in a quarter is typically equivalent to 6–9 days. The total number of days varies because the total number of school days varies in each quarter. For example, 15% can be six days in the quarter that covers July to September, and nine days in the quarter that covers January to March.

[Read more on the following page ›](#)

Three kinds of absence



Absence due to illness, reduction in functional ability or similar.



Absence that has been approved by the school management (extraordinary time off).



Unapproved absence.



How do I find out if my child has been absent from school without permission?

The school management will contact you if your child has been absent from school without permission. If your child has an unapproved absence rate of 10% within a quarter, the school will issue you with a warning that you risk the withdrawal of child and youth benefit if your child's unapproved absence rate reaches 15%.

What happens if my child has an unapproved absence rate of 15% or higher?

If your child has an unapproved absence rate of 15% or higher in a quarter (e.g. January-March), the municipality may decide that you may not receive child and youth benefit in a quarter.

Do I have an opportunity to explain my child's absence from school before my child and youth benefit is withdrawn?

Before child and youth benefit is withdrawn, your municipality must ask you whether there is a legitimate reason for your child's absence from school. If your child is 12 years old or older, the municipality must also ask the child if there is a legitimate reason for the absence.

Why have the rules on child absence been made?

School is important for your child's future. Absence from school means your child can fall behind in their studies and struggle in class. And absence from school may also indicate that your child is not fitting in with their peer group at school. The rules covering unapproved absence are there to ensure that you make sure your child attends school.

How can the school help my child?

Perhaps your child does not attend school because he or she has difficulty following the lessons, is experiencing problems in the classroom or faces other challenges. Contact your child's school, so that together you can find a good solution.



Where can I learn more?

Contact the school if you have any questions about your child's absence. To learn more about the rules, visit uvm.dk/fravær.

You can receive anonymous advice relating to your child and family's well-being at the municipality. To find addresses and telephone numbers in your municipality, visit borger.dk/familie-og-boern/Brug-for-raad-og-hjaelp/Familieraadgivning-og-akut-hjaelp