



## Safe & Healthy School News

# AGRA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PO Box 279, Agra, Oklahoma 74824

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### The Importance of School Attendance

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused—it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.

For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.

As a parent, you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority. By figuring out the reasons for your child's absences you can help set your child on the path to success.

<http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/>

### STRAWBERRY-ORANGE ICE POPS

Making your own colorful, refreshing ice pops is so satisfying and easy—plus, you get to know exactly what's in them when you enjoy them later. And what's in them is real fruit and fruit juice. The pulp floats to the top so that when you unmold them there's a clear layer and a cloudy layer. Beautiful!

**HANDS-ON TIME: 5 MINUTES - TOTAL TIME: 4 HOURS - MAKES: 8 POPS**



#### **KITCHEN GEAR:**

Blender or food processor  
Ice-pop molds or paper cups and wooden sticks

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 cup very ripe strawberries, hulled ("hulled" means with the green top taken off)  
1 cup orange juice

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**First:** put all the ingredients in the blender or food processor and blend until liquidy.

**Second:** Divide the mixture evenly among the ice-pop molds or paper cups. If you're using paper cups, put them on a small baking sheet, cover them with plastic wrap, and then poke a wooden stick down through the wrap into each cup. Freeze until solid, around 4 hours.

The Little School That Could



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