



April 2017 Teacher Newsletter

www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student

Finish Strong

Spring break is over, and now it is time to focus on finishing the school year strong. As a teacher, be sure to continue developing engaging lessons that will help your students accomplish end-of-the-year goals. Post the skills, projects and activities that must be covered before the end of the year. This visual will help your students stay aware of the goals that are left to be accomplished.

Keep the lines of communication open with parents. Consider preparing a few activities that parents can do at home to help their child reach a goal that has not yet been achieved. For older students, provide online resources or practice tests for ACT preparation.

Learn more about how you can finish strong at <http://teaching.about.com/od/Information-For-Teachers/fl/A-Teachersquos-Guide-to-Finishing-the-School-Year-Strong.htm>.

Consider asking yourself the following questions.

- What can I share with parents about the importance of school attendance?
- How can I ensure my students remain engaged in classroom activities?
- What resources can I share with parents to help them support their child at home?

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility. As a teacher, you are considered a mandated reporter. Arkansas law provides specific guidance regarding mandated reporters and when reports should be made to the Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-482-5964.

Learn more at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/safety/mandated-reporters> and <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcf/Pages/ChildProtectiveServices.aspx>.

It is important that you understand the types of abuse, signs to look for and reporting procedures. Be sure to encourage ongoing communication with your students' parents, so they feel comfortable talking with you if a problem arises. Remind them that it is your job to ensure their child is safe.

Consider the following questions.

- What are the signs of child abuse?
- Who are mandated reporters?
- What do I need to know about being a mandated reporter?
- What child abuse prevention resources can I share with parents?
- How do I encourage open communication with my students?
- What should I do if I suspect a child is being abused?