

WHY CAN'T I GO TO SCHOOL?

A PRINTABLE STORY

To keep staff and students safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19, many schools around the world have closed their doors. For children, this abrupt disruption to routine can feel confusing and scary. This printable story answers the question, “Why Can’t I Go to School?” in simple and reassuring terms.

Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor Abbi Kruse developed this resource to answer the question, “Why Can’t I Go to School?” for students at her own early learning center in Madison, Wisconsin. The story was then translated into multiple languages by students and staff in the University of Wisconsin System.

For children (and adults), predictability and routine feel safe. Sudden change is often scary and leaves children feeling anxious. Anxiety is soothed with information, so it’s helpful to answer children’s questions and explain why their usual routines have changed.

However, talking to young children about COVID-19 is challenging, especially when we remain worried and uncertain ourselves. This simple story gives you the reassuring language and age-appropriate information to help children understand why they can’t go to school right now.

Remember, too, that reading a story can always represent a precious moment of connection. Be present as you read the story with your child, enjoying your time together. Connection translates into increased cooperation, willingness, and impulse control. During these unprecedented times, connection with our loved ones is more valuable than ever.

Why Can't I Go To School?



Created by Abbi Kruse & The Playing Field, Madison, WI

Most days I go
to school.



I like to play with my friends.



My teachers love me a lot.



I can't go to school right now.



At school there are a lot of other children.



When a lot of children are together, they sometimes share their sneezes and coughs.



Sharing sneezes and coughs can make everyone sick.



**I am staying home until all
my friends and my teachers
are healthy.**



When everyone is healthy, we can go back to school.



My teachers love me and they are thinking of me.

