



Orange County Department of Education
Homeless Outreach Promoting Educational Success
(HOPES) Collaboration www.ocde.us/mv

You Can Help By

- ✓
- Assist other children in being sensitive to stereotypes of homeless people
- Make sure the child enrolls in the free and reduced meal program
- Help child make plans for transportation for after school activities or other special events
- Provide a structured routine children can depend on every day
- Support and recognize all accomplishments
- Reinforce positive behavior
- Provide cooperative learning activities
- Keep a store of nutritional snacks for children who do not have a snack during “snack break”
- Have a safe place for the child’s possessions and do not take them away (they may need the security of having their belongings in hand)
- Hold the child accountable for what he or she can control (behavior/attitude), not what is out of his or her control
- Remind parents to keep copies of educational and medical records to share with a new school
- Provide an informal support system in which parents can feel safe discussing issues or concerns, and help them become familiar with services available to their children

Common Signs of Homelessness

Lack of Continuity in Education

- ✓ Lack of records needed for enrollment (birth certificate, immunizations, pre-school physical, school records, residency, etc.)
- ✓ Inability to pay fees for school-related activities or school supplies
- ✓ Poor ability to conceptualize or poor organizational skills

Poor Health/Nutrition

- ✓ Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- ✓ Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)
- ✓ Increased vulnerability to colds/flu
- ✓ Grooming and personal hygiene are neglected/inconsistent
- ✓ Wearing same clothes for several days
- ✓ Unattended vision, medical, and dental needs

Transportation and Attendance Problems

- ✓ Erratic attendance or tardiness
- ✓ Inability to contact parents (no telephone, no address, etc.)
- ✓ Numerous absences
- ✓ Lack of participation in field trips and after school activities
- ✓ Absences on days when students bring special treats from home

Social and Behavioral Clues

- ✓ Poor/short attention span
- ✓ Behind developmentally
- ✓ Sleep disturbances/difficulties sleeping
- ✓ Poor self-esteem
- ✓ Difficulty trusting people/avoidance of making friends
- ✓ “Old” beyond years
- ✓ A marked change in behavior (extreme shyness, withdrawal, nervousness, aggression and/or anger)