



## **SUCCESSFUL KIDS: Children with Health Care Coverage Do Better in School**

Children's health is important to their academic success, and health insurance is key to helping children remain healthy and do well in school. Children with health insurance are more likely to avoid preventable childhood illnesses and, in turn, generally have better school attendance. Studies indicate uninsured children are 25 percent more likely to miss school, while reading scores among children without health insurance doubled after health care coverage was provided. A quality insurance plan that includes physical and behavioral health coverage to meet every child's comprehensive needs, as well as dental and vision coverage – all important facets of health care that are covered under CHIP, Medicaid and many private insurance plans – can make a big difference in a child's academic success.

***Children with health care coverage do better in school and get to the finish line ready to begin adulthood.***

Meet Connie, a school nurse in central Pennsylvania. Connie sees many children who are having difficulty in the classroom, whether it is academically, socially or because they are not feeling well. It is not always evident what is causing the difficulty. Finding the source of the problem is the first step. Treating the problem can be more difficult. Connie told us about a number of children she has helped, including Hazel ...

***Hazel was becoming frustrated and distracted in school, which led to bad behavior as well as outbursts and incomplete homework assignments. But Hazel had never been a problem before in school, and it was two particular classes where she was having the greatest problems. She passed vision screening but had difficulty when colors were used. Hazel's parents had no vision insurance, but Connie helped find a generous ophthalmologist who offered a free vision exam. He detected a cataract that was obstructing Hazel's color vision, making her colorblind to certain colors used on white boards. Her parents obtained Medicaid coverage, Hazel had surgery to remove the cataract and she has since returned to being a good student and heading for the finish line.***

**Let's finish what we started and make sure *all* children have access to health insurance. We can reach the finish line!**