



What Happens in a Transitional Kindergarten Classroom?

In transitional kindergarten, teachers help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. They also expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

- **Classroom facility and teacher:** Transitional kindergarteners have their own classroom with their own teacher at Joe Nightingale School.
- **Length of school day:** Students attend school the same length of time as traditional kindergarten, 8:00 -11:20 OR 10:40 – 2:00
- **Shared activities:** Students participate in all kindergarten activities such as music and art throughout the year.
- **Curriculum and learning:** The curriculum of the transitional kindergarten program is hands on and developmentally appropriate for the 4 and 5 year old child. Our goal is to lay a strong foundation of literacy to prepare students for the rigorous standards of kindergarten and beyond.
- **Learning environment:** Students have more time to develop foundational developmental skills to prepare them for kindergarten.

"I'm so glad we made the choice to enroll my son in transitional kindergarten. He's very confident in school now and he's excited to learn more."

-Transitional Kindergarten Parent



Why is Transitional Kindergarten Good for Kids?

Transitional kindergarten provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically challenging environment that nurtures their growth. Research shows that young children who attend kindergarten readiness programs like transitional kindergarten are more likely to do well in school and attend college.

Parents all over California recognize the benefits of transitional kindergarten, and many parents have already been enrolling their children in similar programs, public and private, for years. Offering transitional kindergarten will help all of our young learners get the best start possible, with curriculum that is designed just for them.

How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about transitional kindergarten in your area call

Dr. Holly Edds (805) 938-8929

For answers to some frequently asked questions on transitional kindergarten, visit

www.orcutt-schools.net



Transitional Kindergarten

A strong start for young learners



Orcutt Union School District





What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten for children turning 5 years old between September and December. It gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs.

Transitional kindergarten:

- Is part of the public school system and is free for families
- Uses a unique, specialized curriculum that is based on the kindergarten standards and is designed to support young 5 year olds
- Is taught by credentialed teachers with extra training to teach young kindergarteners



“Transitional kindergarten gives the gift of time to children who are smart and capable but need another year to grow.”

- Transitional Kindergarten Teacher

Starting school is a very exciting time for children and their families! It begins a new chapter in their lives and sets the tone for children's future. But California's kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. This can make the transition into kindergarten difficult for some children, and the youngest children entering the kindergarten classroom often struggle to adjust.

The good news is that California recently passed a law to create transitional kindergarten, giving children an opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive way that supports their development, while still maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten.

In our district and throughout the state, transitional kindergarten will be offered to children turning 5 years old between September 1 and December 2 to give them an opportunity to develop the social and academic skills and the confidence that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

When Ryan first began transitional kindergarten, he had trouble focusing in class and struggled to write many words. After just a few months, Ryan's focus is much better and he is now able to write sentences. "He feels so much more confident now," says his mother, Monica. "Transitional kindergarten was a perfect fit for him."

Who Attends Transitional Kindergarten?

Priority for entrance to the transitional kindergarten program will be given to children turning 5 years old between September 1 and December 2. Other students may be eligible for the program, however priority is granted to students that fall within the legal requirement.

How do you decide?

Meet with your child's preschool teacher or caregiver to discuss your child's readiness for kindergarten. If you have concerns about your child's readiness to enter kindergarten, consider these questions:

- Does my child have a fall birthday?
- Does my child appear to be ready for structured academic work?
- Would my child benefit from having additional time to develop his/her social and/or academic skills?
- What else would my child be doing if she/he did not attend kindergarten?

Whether you request your child to be in transitional kindergarten or traditional kindergarten, approach the beginning of school with enthusiasm, confidence, and reassurance!

California's New Kindergarten System: Preparing Children to Succeed

