



## 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.
- **Length of school day:** They go to school every day from START TIME to END TIME
- **Shared activities:** They participate in all kindergarten activities such as music and art throughout the year.
- **Curriculum and learning:** They learn important new skills that build on what they may have learned in preschool and help them adjust to the elementary school environment.
- **Learning environment:** They learn by working with the teacher in small and large groups and also have opportunities for independent exploration.

*"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 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 kids 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

**(714) 628-5656**

For answers to some frequently asked questions on Transitional Kindergarten, visit

**[www.orangeusd.org](http://www.orangeusd.org)**



**\* Pending the outcome of the Governor's budget proposal**

## \*Transitional Kindergarten

*A strong start for young learners*



**Orange Unified School District**





## Who Attends Transitional Kindergarten?

A new law was recently passed in California to change the age when children can begin kindergarten. Under this new law, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. Previously, children could be enrolled in kindergarten if they turned 5 years old by December 2. While this change of a few months may seem small, it can mean a big difference during these early years when children are rapidly growing and developing.

The law also created transitional kindergarten, so the children who will be affected by this change – those with birthdays between September and December – will have an opportunity to continue building their skills and abilities. Their time in transitional kindergarten will help them to succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine.

## 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

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 develop the social and academic skills and the confidence that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

**\*The Governor's proposed budget for 2016-2017 suggest enrollment changes for the Transitional Kindergarten program. Education codes would also need to be changed by Legislation. This might affect changes in the TK program.**

***"Transitional Kindergarten gives the gift of time to children who are smart and capable but need another year to grow."***

***- Transitional Kindergarten Teacher***

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."

### California's New Kindergarten System: Preparing Children to Succeed

