

Questions to think about as you consider options for your child

- Is there a daily plan to guide learning? Does the schedule include an appropriate amount of play time, rest time, learning activities?
- How many children will be in the classroom?
- Are additional adults available to help in the classroom?
- What are the opportunities for family involvement?
- How does the outdoor play environment support physical development?
- Are children expected to sit at tables or desks? For how long?
- Has your child experienced play groups and/or separation from parents for extended time?
- Does your child communicate personal needs like using the restroom?
- How do the teachers support the child's home language?
- How is children's play integrated into daily learning activities?
- Are teachers and children engaged in conversations?
- Do the children appear to enjoy the learning?
- Does the classroom include learning focuses, i.e., early literacy, math, etc.?

Things families should keep in mind:

- Cost of program or eligibility
- Parent and child expectations
- Before and after school care
- Length of day
- Hours/months of operation
- Student support services
- Readiness of your child
- Transportation
- Meals



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Family Guide for Universal Prekindergarten

**Finding the Best Program
for Your Four-Year Old!**

Transforming lives through education

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD

High quality programs create early learning experiences, environments, and relationships that support children's growth and development.

High Quality Early Learning Experiences:

- Fulfills child's curiosity; positively impacts academic performance.
- Provides discipline and structure balanced with fun.
- Builds child's desire to learn.
- Provides opportunities for physical activity.
- Builds social and emotional development by increasing positive behavior, self-worth, and confidence.



Program	Definition Age	Requirements	Teacher Qualifications	Student-Teacher Ratios
California State Preschool Program	Includes part-and full-day services for eligible families. Provides a curriculum that is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for the children served.	2 years, 9 months to 5-year-old children	Associate Teacher: 12 ECE Units Teacher: 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units Master Teacher: Teacher + 6 ECE Units in Specialization + 2 Adult Supervision Units	1 adult to 8 children
Early Learning and Care	Includes community-based and private programs, family child care providers, and family, friend, and neighbor care.	2 years, 9 months to 5-year-old children (Varies by individual program, some programs also offer infant/toddler care)	Teacher qualifications may vary by program. Please consult with the specific program to learn more.	1 adult to 12 children*
Head Start	A Federal program for eligible families that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five by enhancing their cognitive, social, emotional, dental, physical and nutritional development. Active family engagement encouraged.	3 to 5-year-old children	Teacher Assistant: 12 units of ECE/CD Teacher: AA or higher in Child Development or ECE	1 adult to 9 children
Transitional Kindergarten (TK)	First year of a two-year kindergarten experience that is developmentally-informed, based on the California Preschool Learning Foundations, and uses a modified kindergarten curriculum.	2022-23: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 & Feb. 2 2023-24: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 & Apr. 2 2024-25: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 & June 2 2025-26: Turns 4 by Sept. 1	Credentialed teachers are required to complete 24 early childhood education units or obtain a Child Development Permit by August 1, 2023 or demonstrate equivalency of 24 units working with preschool age children as determined by the school district.	2022-23: 1 adult to 12 children 2023-24:** 1 adult to 10 children
Expanded Transitional Kindergarten	Local school districts can choose to enroll four-year-olds in TK whose fifth birthdays occur after the eligibility date, generally referred to as "Expanded TK or Early Admittance TK". ***	School districts can only offer ETK to 4-year-olds whose 5th birthday occurs within the school year and not after June 30th.	Same as TK requirements	2022-23: 1 adult to 12 children 2023-24: 1 adult to 10 children

*For preschool age children

**The 1:10 ratio will be in effect as funding becomes available

*** It is at the school district's discretion to admit students outside of the yearly TK eligibility birthday window.