



## 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 2 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.

TK will be part of the public school system and will be free for all families.

*"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*



Children whose fifth birthday falls between September 2, 2012 and August 2013 will be eligible to attend TK in the 2013-2014 school year

To enroll your child in Kindergarten or TK, contact:

**New Student Orientation Center**  
 417 W. Alondra Blvd Compton, CA 90220  
 Monday-Friday, 8am-11am and 1pm-3pm  
 (310) 639-4321, x63056



# Transitional Kindergarten

*A strong start for young learners*



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



## How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about transitional kindergarten, please contact:

**Office of Early Childhood Learning**  
 14431 S. Stanford Ave  
 Compton, CA 90220  
 (310) 898-6008





## What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is an exciting new program that will be open to children who will turn 5 years old between September 2 and August. TK is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten to give those children the gift of time to develop at their own pace and continue building the social, emotional and academic skills that will help them succeed in elementary school.

Over the years, California's kindergarten standards and curriculum have grown increasingly rigorous, 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. TK will give these young learners a head start and provide them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs, while maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten.

In the 2012-2013 school year and each year thereafter, students whose fifth birthday is between September 2 and August will be eligible to attend transitional kindergarten.

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."

## 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.

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. TK students will have the opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive way that supports their development, while maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten.



## Academic Program

The TK academic program is built around a specialized curriculum based on the kindergarten standards. TK will be taught by credentialed teachers with extra training to teach young kindergarteners. Children will be exposed 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. The social, emotional and academic skills children learn in transitional kindergarten will help them to succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine. TK teachers will help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. TK will give our youngest kindergarteners the best start possible, with curriculum that is designed just for them.



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

***- Transitional Kindergarten Teacher***

