

Downey Unified School District
Transitional Kindergarten: A Guide for Parents



District Transitional Kindergarten Implementation Highlights

Transitional Kindergarten is the first of a two-year kindergarten program designed for students whose birthdays fall between September 2 and December 2. Transitional Kindergarten is designed to encourage oral language development and offers children many hands-on opportunities for learning and to benefit from the “*gift of time*” in the classroom setting.

- For the 2012-13 school year, the Downey Unified School District will offer **Transitional Kindergarten** (TK) in several schools across the District for children who will reach age five November 2 through December 2.
- The District’s **Transitional Kindergarten** classes will be supported by all programs/departments.
- Children will be eligible for **Transitional Kindergarten** if their fifth birthday falls between:
 - November 2 and December 2 (for 2012-13)
 - October 2 and December 2 (for 2013-14)
 - September 2 and December 2 (for 2014-15 and each school year thereafter)

Program Structure

- The **Transitional Kindergarten** schedule will follow the same daily schedule of the District’s traditional 3 ½ hour kindergarten program. Some schools may offer before and after school child care programs provided by the YMCA.
- The **Transitional Kindergarten** schedule includes whole group instruction and activities, small group instruction, and independent “hands-on” learning.
- **Transitional Kindergarteners** enjoy recess with their kindergarten friends and participate in a variety of activities throughout the year, including music, art, and motor skills development.
- Parents will be required to transport their child to the assigned **Transitional Kindergarten** site. Transportation will not be provided by DUSD.
- Just like the traditional kindergarten program, daily attendance is important for children participating in the **Transitional Kindergarten** program.

Transitional Kindergarten Versus Traditional Kindergarten – Differences & Similarities

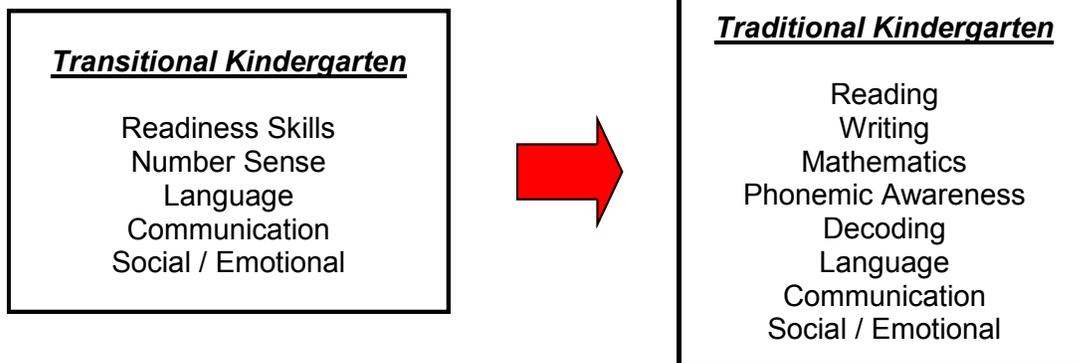
Transitional Kindergarten:

- **Transitional Kindergarten** is a program blending pre-school and kindergarten standards with high expectations based on the pre-school foundations making a bridge to success in kindergarten.
- The Transitional Kindergarten student to teacher ratio is 30:1.
- **Transitional Kindergarten** is the “*gift of time*” and children will be better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Traditional Kindergarten:

- The traditional kindergarten program is based on kindergarten standards with high expectations of mastery.
- The Kindergarten student to teacher ratio is 30:1.

Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum Highlights



Curriculum:

- The **Transitional Kindergarten** curriculum blends the best practices from the pre-school learning environment with the best practices from the kindergarten environment.
- Children will be introduced to authors and age-appropriate topics through the **Transitional Kindergarten** curriculum.
- Mathematics instruction will be delivered using a hands-on approach.

Frequently Asked Questions About Transitional Kindergarten

How do I know if Transitional Kindergarten is right for my child?

Transitional Kindergarten is the first of a two-year kindergarten program designed for students whose birthdays fall between September 1 and December 2. In 2014-15, children with birthdays in this time frame will be eligible to attend one year of Transitional Kindergarten and then one year of Traditional Kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten is designed to encourage oral language development, offers children many hands-on opportunities for learning and to benefit from the “*gift of time*” in the classroom setting.

Where do I register my child for Transitional Kindergarten?

Please talk to your school office staff or the principal or visit the DUSD website (www.dusd.net) to view sites that will have Transitional Kindergarten classrooms for the upcoming school year.

Frequently Asked Questions About Transitional Kindergarten—continued

Will all DUSD elementary schools have Transitional Kindergarten?

At this time, not all schools will be offering Transitional Kindergarten programs. DUSD will be implementing Transitional Kindergarten in multiple sites in an effort to prepare the District for system-wide implementation by 2014-2015, when all students with birthdays between September 1st and December 2nd will be eligible to attend Transitional Kindergarten, followed by Traditional Kindergarten.

Who do I call if I have questions regarding Transitional Kindergarten?

Please call or visit your neighborhood elementary school if you have any additional questions. The office staff will be glad to assist you. If you want your child to participate, there is a Transitional Kindergarten Interest Form available at each K-3 and K-5 elementary school. In late May or early June, you will be contacted by the District to attend an informational meeting about TK.

Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010

- Creates **Transitional Kindergarten** classes.
- Allows for **Transitional Kindergarten** as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.
- The new law changes the kindergarten age requirement by moving the cutoff date one month a year for three years, beginning in 2012. In addition, it changes the kindergarten enrollment date from December 2 to September 1 according to the chart below. In order to enter kindergarten, your child must be age five on or before:

2012-13	November 1
2013-14	October 1
2014-15	September 1

- Allows the District to set class size.
- Allows the District to decide where **Transitional Kindergarten** classes will be held.
- **Transitional Kindergarten** gives parents an additional option to help their children enter kindergarten more prepared to learn and succeed.
- Gives the District the responsibility to design a **Transitional Kindergarten** program.

Helpful Links:

www.tkcalifornia.org
www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gq/em/kinderfaq.asp