

How to use this document

Thank you for helping to spread the word about Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) in California! This PowerPoint presentation was developed to help UPK implementers (districts, CSPPs, Head Starts, private preschool and childcare providers, advocates, etc.) communicate with families and community members about the UPK programs available in their area. Before you get started, here are a few notes to help you use this document successfully:

This presentation is intended to be tailored and customized based on your local UPK programs/the UPK program you represent. Many of the slides in this deck leave space for you to fill in information, such as links to enrollment forms, contact information, and QR codes. You should feel empowered to personalize the photos and copy to better fit the tone and message that's right for your community. You can also delete slides that are not relevant to your program or community.

- If you represent a **CSPP** program, slides 11 & 12 are available for you to customize.
- If you represent a **Head Start** program, slides 13 & 14 are available for you to customize.
- If you represent a **Private PreK** program, slide 15 is available for you to customize.
- If you represent a **TK** program, slides 16-18 are available for you to customize.

We encourage you to promote as many programs in your community as possible to support authentic family choice.

[Talking points](#) have been developed to accompany this presentation, which you will also find in the notes of each slide in this deck. You can find other useful materials for communicating with UPK implementers and UPK users on the [UPK Resources Landing Page](#), including overview two-pagers, a communications toolkit, and guidelines for the UPK brand.

UPK

Universal
PreKindergarten

*California's
Great Start*

March 21, 2025



There are more free and low-cost preschool spots available in your community!

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) brings more choices for preschool, including Transitional Kindergarten, to families.

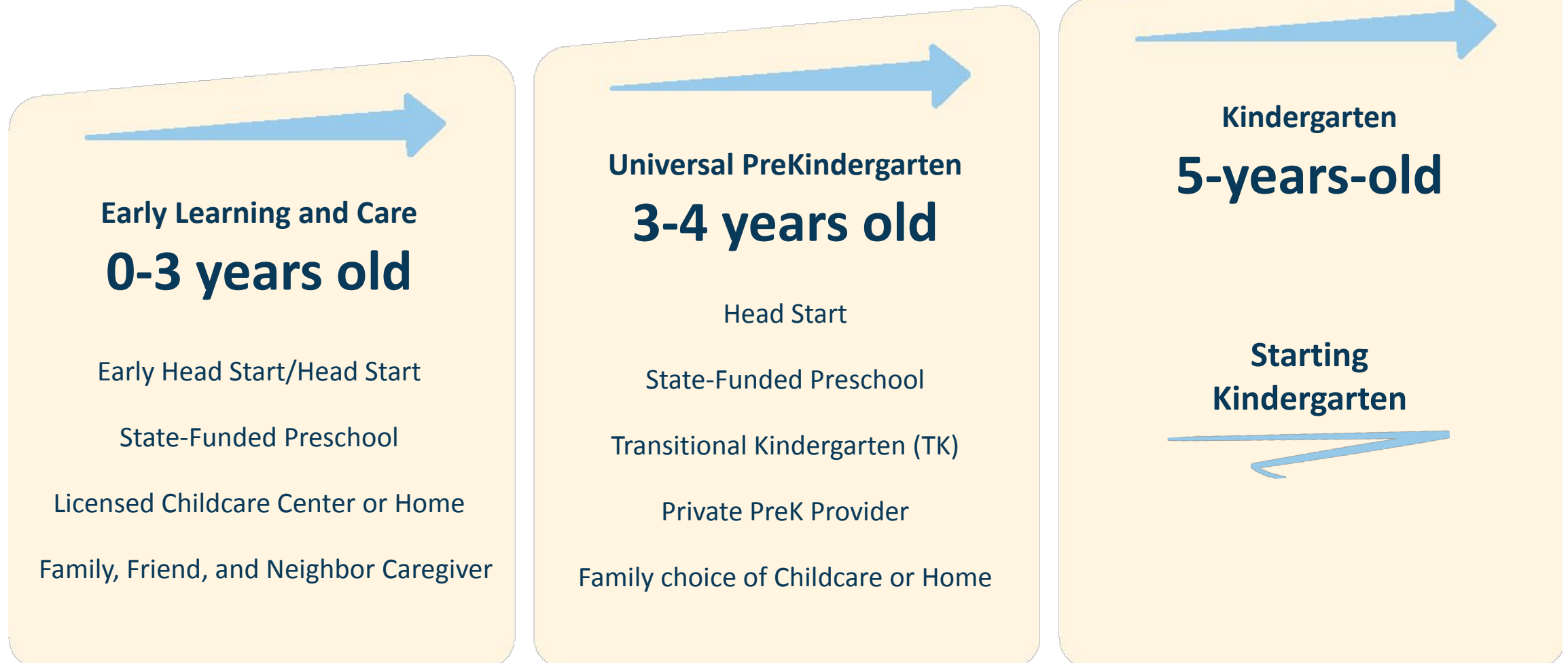
Early learning programs put children on a path to succeed in school and be ready for college and careers

Research shows that children who attend preschool have:

- ↑ Improved self-control and ability to manage emotions
- ↑ Higher achievement in math and reading throughout elementary school
- ↑ Increased likelihood of high school graduation
- ↑ Increased likelihood of a college degree



Pathways to Kindergarten



Preschool Choices Available for 3–5 Year Olds

Families can choose from a variety of preschool programs for their young children. Here’s a breakdown of some of those choices:

Name	California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Head Start	Private	Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
Ages	3- and 4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds	4-year-olds, depending on birthday
What it is	Preschool program run through contracts from the State of California	Federally-funded preschool program.	Variety of half-day and full-day preschool and childcare programs	Part of the public elementary school system that takes place the year before kindergarten
Schedule	Part-day and full-day options available	Part-day and full-day options available	Part-day and full-day determined by individual preschool providers	Part-day and full-day options available, depending on local decisions
Cost	Free or low-cost, based on income eligibility and other factors	Free, based on income eligibility	Fees determined by individual preschool providers. Some families may be eligible for state subsidized vouchers to cover the costs of care.	Free, regardless of income

Connecting Your Choices

UPK brings together all of these programs so families have more choices of high-quality learning programs that meet their needs.

UPK also connects before and afterschool and private care programs so families have options for a full day of care.

What UPK offers families

- All families in California—regardless of immigration & income status—are eligible to participate depending on your child’s age and the program you select
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) will be available to all 4-year-old children for free
- More flexible, high-quality early education choices for their 3- and 4-year-olds that address families' childcare needs*
- The opportunity to give input to make sure local UPK programs reflect your family’s and community’s needs and culture
- Schools that are ready to support your child's learning
- Assurance that your child is entering school equipped with the tools that will help them succeed

*Pending eligibility and other requirements



Things to Consider in Your Decision:

Logistics

When you are deciding on the best preschool option for your child, here are some of the logistical things to consider:

- Is it full-day or part-day?
- If it's part-day, who will care for your child during the remainder of the day?
 - Are there other programs available (like a before and after school program or another childcare program) to care for your child or will you or a family member be available?
- Do they offer transportation?
- What is the cost of the program?
- Is your child eligible*?

*All 4-year-olds will soon be eligible for TK, but other programs may consider family income, whether your child speaks English at home, whether your child has a disability, and other factors as conditions for eligibility.



Things to Consider in Your Decision: Cultural and Personal Choices

When you are deciding on the best preschool option for your child, here are things to consider based on your families cultural and personal needs:

- Is the classroom accessible? Do they have teachers who know how to work with children with disabilities?
- Do they have teachers who speak the same language you speak at home?
- Can your child see themselves represented in their teachers? Do they have teachers or staff who look like your family?
- What kind of resources are they providing to families?
- Are there family engagement opportunities or do they offer family leadership involvement?





Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you

Choose the best options that meet your cultural, family, and life needs

3-years-old

4-years-old

5-years-old



Noah

Attends a family childcare home that provides California State Preschool as part of a Family Childcare Home Education Network (FCCHEN)

Moves to full-day TK at a local elementary school and attends an on-campus before and after school program while his parents work

Starts Kindergarten



Liam

Attends a program run by a licensed preschool center that blends California State Preschool Program and Head Start to provide a full day of learning and care

Starts Kindergarten



Emma

Attends a California State Preschool program run by a local elementary school

Continues attending the California State Preschool Program in the morning, and starts attending a TK program in the afternoon

Starts Kindergarten



Nina

Attends a full-day California State Preschool Program in her Tribal Community

Starts Kindergarten

How to enroll in CSPP

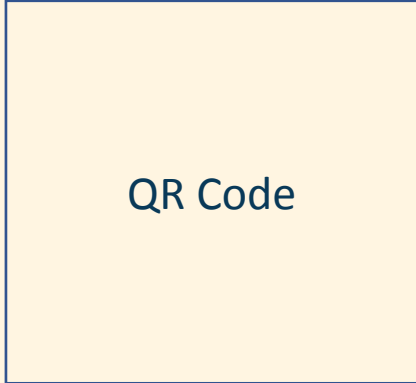
A list of California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) programs in our community can be found here [insert link] or by following the QR code below. Applications are available for pick-up at any participating preschool site.

Applications must be received by XX:XX A/PM on MM/DD/YYYY to be considered.

You can also contact our local resource and referral agent for help finding and applying to CSPP:

Call: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Email: example@yourdistrict.edu



Head Start

Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you Choose the best options that meet your cultural, family, and life needs

3-years-old

4-years-old

5-years-old



Isabella

Attends a full-day Head Start program run by a licensed preschool center

Moves to full-day TK at a local elementary school and attends an on-campus before and after school program while her parents work

Starts Kindergarten



Julian

Attends a program run by a licensed preschool center that blends California State Preschool Program and Head Start to provide a full day of learning and care

Starts Kindergarten



Oliver

Attends a Head Start program run by a local elementary school

Continues attending the Head Start in the morning, and starts attending a TK program in the afternoon

Starts Kindergarten



Sophia

Attends a full-day Head Start Program run by a local Tribal Education Center

Starts Kindergarten

How to enroll in Head Start

You can find and apply for Head Start in our community [here](#) [update to local link, if applicable] or follow the QR code below.

You can also contact our local Head Start office for help finding and applying to programs in our area:

Call: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Email: example@localheadstart.org



Private

How to enroll in Private PreK Programs

Contact our local resource and referral agency here [insert link] or by following the QR code below for help finding and contacting private PreK programs that have availability in our area:

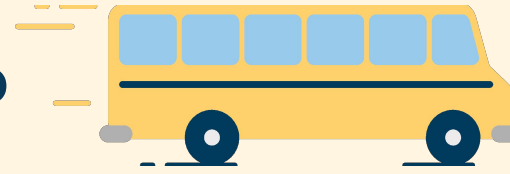
You can also contact our local resource and referral agent at the following:

Call: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Email: example@yourdistrict.edu

QR Code

When can my child start **TK**?



Your child can start Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at the beginning of the school year with the following birth dates.

Students born between
Sep 2, 2018 and Apr 2, 2019

Can start TK in school year
2023-2024

Students born between
Sep 2, 2019 and June 2, 2020

Can start TK in school year
2024-2025

Students born between
Sep 2, 2020 and Sep 1, 2021

Can start TK in school year
2025-2026

TK

Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you

Choose the best options that meet your cultural, family, and life needs

3-years-old

4-years-old

5-years-old



Ethan

Attends a full-day California State Preschool Program run by a licensed preschool center

Moves to full-day TK at a local elementary school and attends an on-campus before and afterschool program while his parents work

Starts Kindergarten



Amelia

Cared for by her family members

Attends part-day TK at her local elementary school, then is cared for by her family members when TK is finished for the day

Starts Kindergarten



Olivia

Cared for by a family childcare provider near her parents' workplace

Moves to a full-day bilingual TK program at a local elementary school

Starts Kindergarten



Mateo

Attends a private preschool program full time

Moves to TK at a local elementary school and attends an afterschool program run by the local Boys & Girls Club

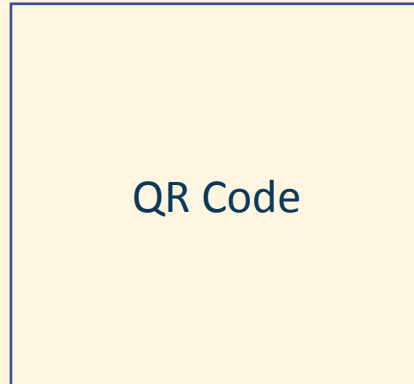
Starts Kindergarten

How to enroll in TK

Enrolling for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is similar to the application and enrollment process for Kindergarten, which may be different from your experience seeking a spot in other types of preschool programs.

Enrollment packets can be picked up at any participating elementary school, or at our district office, or online on our district website [insert link] or by following the QR code below.

Reach out to us by phone at XXX-XXX-XXXX for any questions about enrolling. You can also ask us about our before and after school options.



QR Code

What your child should experience in a UPK program

Regardless of the UPK program your family chooses, your child should experience an environment where:

- Children of all abilities are supported and welcomed
- Each child's culture, race, identity, and language is respected
- Educators are ready to support dual language learners and encourage children to use their home language in the classroom
- Children are provided joyful learning that sparks their curiosity and sense of belonging
- Play-based learning activities are used to build the skills they need to succeed in TK–3rd Grade subjects



Supportive and welcoming environments for all children

California is working to make sure that all UPK classrooms will support children of all abilities, skill levels, and backgrounds by:

- Reserving spots in preschool classrooms specifically for children with disabilities, including 10% of all CA State Preschool spots by 2025
- Teaching educators about managing normal behavior in young children and how to include children of all abilities in activities
- Helping educators give children different ways to show what they've learned so they can build on their skills
- Ensuring all educators know how to support dual language learners and encourage students to use their home language in the classroom





As UPK expands, so will the team needed to support these programs.

Right now is a great time to join the expanding UPK workforce.
Learn more about what job and education opportunities are available on our website:

www.XX.org

We Want to Hear From You!

- Providers are making plans to create the best options for UPK in our community.
- Help us make sure our choices reflect our community and meet your needs.
- Visit ([here - place to connect](#)) to find out transportation options available.
- [Visit here](#) to find your local regional center who can connect you with early intervention services for children with disabilities.
- Learn what programs are offered in your community.
- Visit ([here - place to connect](#)) to share your voice.



Reach out and find resources and materials here
(insert Link and QR code to district page)

[LEARN MORE](#)