

These talking points were developed to support the [CA UPK Slide Deck: Key Information for families.](#)

Slide	Suggested Talking Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This deck is designed to introduce families to Universal PreKindergarten and the choices available to families and communities across California.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanks to new funding from the State of California, there are now more free and low-cost preschool opportunities available to communities across California, including ours! - Universal PreKindergarten - or UPK - is bringing more flexible, high-quality early education choices for your 3- and 4-year-olds that address your families' childcare needs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - California wants all children to have a strong and early start to their education journey. - We know that high-quality PreK puts children on a path to succeed in school and be ready for college and careers. - Research confirms children who have attended high-quality PreK programs have improved self-control and the ability to manage emotions. - They also have higher achievement in math and reading throughout elementary school, increased likelihood of graduating from high school, and an increased likelihood of earning a college degree. - High-quality PreK programs ultimately help your child enter school/Kindergarten equipped with the tools that will help them succeed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are multiple pathways to Kindergarten for your children. - For the youngest children, between birth to 3-years-old, there are several publicly funded options, depending on age, available to eligible families, as well as private options to support your child's development. - Children become eligible for Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) as 3- and 4-year-olds. UPK includes Head Start, California State Preschool Program (CSPP), private preK programs, and Transitional Kindergarten.

- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is the only option offered for free for all 4-year-olds.
- Once a child turns 5 they are eligible to begin 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)
Age	3- and 4-year-olds	3- to 5-year-olds	3- to 5-year-olds	4-year-olds, depending on locality
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 care programs	Part of the public elementary school system that takes place the year before kindergarten
Schedule	Half-day and full-day options available	Half-day and full-day options available	Hours determined by individual preschool providers	Part of full school day, 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	Free, regardless of income

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- As part of UPK, you have a variety of preschool options to choose from. This slide breaks down the preschool choices available for 3- and 4-year-olds in more detail.
- You'll find information on California State Preschool - or CSPP - on the far left, followed by Head Start, private preK, and finally Transitional Kindergarten - or TK.
- You can see there are a variety of half-day and full-day options for eligible families to consider.

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.

UPK Universal PreKindergarten California's Great Start

- UPK brings together all of these various programs you may be familiar with, so that you have more choices for high-quality PreK programs that meet your needs.
- UPK also connects before and after school and private programs to create wraparound or full-day options for working families.

What UPK offers families

- All families in California—regardless of immigration & income status—are eligible to participate
- 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

*Available pending eligibility and other requirements**

UPK Universal PreKindergarten California's Great Start

- UPK looks to support families in a variety of ways.
- All families, regardless of immigration & income status, are eligible to participate.
- UPK offers more flexible, high-quality PreK choices for your 3- and 4-year-old children.
- Families have the opportunity to give input to make sure local UPK programs reflect families' and communities' needs and cultures.
- Schools will be ready to support your child's learning.
- Programs will work to make sure children enter school with the tools that will help them succeed.

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 CSPP or before and after school programs) 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?*

*4-year-olds will not 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.

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- When making the decision about which UPK program is best for your family, there are a variety of things to consider - including distance to your house or work, cost, if it's a full/half-day, if they have options for extended care, and if your family is eligible based on the program's requirements.

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 and exceptional needs?
- Do they have teachers who speak the same language you speak at home?
- Do they have teachers who look like your family? Can your child see themselves represented in their teachers?
- What kind of resources are they providing to families?
- Are there family engagement opportunities or do they offer family leadership involvement?

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- In addition to these planning considerations, there are also cultural and personal preferences that you'll want to consider when making a decision for your child, such as:
 - Having teachers who speak your families' home language or know how to encourage your child to speak their home language
 - Whether the classroom is accessible to your child's needs
 - And ways for your family to be involved

CSPP 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
<p>Noah</p> <p>Attends a full-day California State Preschool Program run by a licensed preschool center</p>	<p>Moves to full-day TK at a local elementary school and attends an on-campus before and after school program while his parents work</p>	<p>Starts Kindergarten</p>
<p>Liam</p> <p>Attends a program run by a licensed preschool center that attends California State Preschool Program and Head Start to provide a full day of learning and care</p>	<p>Continues attending the California State Preschool Program in the morning, and starts attending a TK program in the afternoon</p>	<p>Starts Kindergarten</p>
<p>Emma</p> <p>Attends a California State Preschool program run by a local elementary school</p>	<p>Continues attending the California State Preschool Program in the morning, and starts attending a TK program in the afternoon</p>	<p>Starts Kindergarten</p>
<p>Nina</p> <p>Attends a full-day California State Preschool Program in their Tribal Community</p>		<p>Starts Kindergarten</p>

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- Your child's journey to Kindergarten can take a number of different pathways. Here are a few examples of how families can choose CSPP for their children's preschool and care. Families can decide to keep their child in CSPP through Kindergarten, or they can match CSPP with other UPK programs to fit their needs.
 - Take Noah, for example. When he's 3-years-old, he attends a family childcare home that provides California State Preschool as part of a Family Childcare Home Education Network (FCCHEN). When he's 4, he moves to a full-day Transitional Kindergarten program at his local elementary school. He attends an on-campus before an after school program while his parents work. And then when he's 5-years-old, he starts kindergarten.
 - Then we have Liam, who attends CSPP and Head Start program for a full day's worth care until he's 5 when he starts Kindergarten
 - Another example is Emma, who at 3 attends a CSPP program at her local elementary school. She stays with this program when she's 4-years-old, but starts the TK program in the afternoons and moves to Kindergarten at age 5.
 - And then we have Nina, who will, who attends a full-day CSPP in her tribal community. She attends this until she's ready to start Kindergarten at age 5.
- Families must meet income requirements to be eligible for CSPP.

CSPP 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.

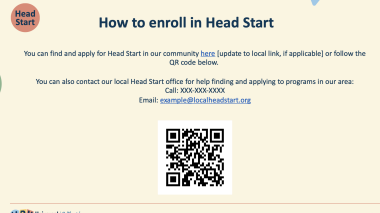
Applications must be received by XXXX/PM on MM/DD/YYYY to be considered.

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

QR Code

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- Here is information on how to enroll in California State Preschool Program - CSPP.
- You can go to this link to see a list of all of the various programs or scan the QR code with your phone.
- You can also call or email to get more information.

 <p>Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you Choose the best options that meet your cultural, family, and life needs</p> <p>3-years-old Attends a full-day Head Start program run by a licensed preschool center</p> <p>4-years-old Moves to full-day TK at a local elementary school and attends an on-campus before and after school program while her parents work</p> <p>5-years-old Starts Kindergarten</p> <p>3-years-old 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</p> <p>Starts Kindergarten</p> <p>4-years-old Attends a Head Start program run by a local elementary school</p> <p>Starts Kindergarten</p> <p>4-years-old Continues attending the Head Start in the morning, and starts attending a TK program in the afternoon</p> <p>Starts Kindergarten</p> <p>Other Attends a full-day Head Start Program run by a local Tribal Education Center</p> <p>Starts Kindergarten</p> <p>UPK Universal PreKindergarten</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head Start is one of the UPK programs eligible families can choose for their child's journey to Kindergarten. Here are a few examples of how eligible families can choose Head Start for their children's preschool and care. Families can decide to keep their child in Head Start through Kindergarten, or they can match Head Start with other UPK programs to fit their needs. - At 3-years-old, Isabella attends a full-day Head Start program at a licensed preschool center before moving to a full-day TK program at her elementary school. She attends an on-campus afterschool program while her parents work. - Julian attends a full-day licensed preschool center that blends CSPP and Head Start all the way until he starts Kindergarten. - Oliver goes to his local elementary school for a Head Start program, and then when he turns 4, he starts attending a TK program in the afternoons. - And the local Tribal Education Center offers a full-day Head Start program that Sophia attends from 3 to 4 years old.
 <p>How to enroll in Head Start</p> <p>You can find and apply for Head Start in our community hubs (update to local link, if applicable) or follow the QR code below.</p> <p>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@yourheadstart.org</p> <p>UPK Universal PreKindergarten</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Here are links and phone numbers for details on how to find out if you are eligible for Head Start and how to enroll. You can also scan the QR code with your phone.
 <p>How to enroll in Private PreK Programs</p> <p>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:</p> <p>You can also contact our local resource and referral agent at the following: Call: XXX-XXX-XXXX Email: example@yourdistrict.edu</p> <p>QR Code</p> <p>UPK Universal PreKindergarten</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For those who select Private PreK programs, reach out to your local resource and referral agent at these links or scan the QR code to find out about programs in your area.
 <p>When can my child start TK?</p> <p>Your child can start Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at the beginning of the school year with the following birth dates.</p> <p>Students born between Sep 2, 2018 and Apr 2, 2019 Can start TK in school year 2023-2024</p> <p>Students born between Sep 2, 2019 and June 2, 2020 Can start TK in school year 2024-2025</p> <p>Students born between Sep 2, 2020 and Aug 30, 2020 Can start TK in school year 2025-2026</p> <p>UPK Universal PreKindergarten</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transitional Kindergarten programs are expanding in California over the next few years - with more 4-year-olds able to attend each year. - For this next school year - starting in the fall of 2023 - children students who were born between September 2, 2018 and April 2, 2019 are eligible to start TK at the beginning of the next school year. - Looking into the following school year - beginning in the fall of 2024, children born between September 2, 2019, and June 2 2020 can start TK at the beginning of the school year. - And then children born between September 2, 2020 and August 30, 2020 are able to start at the beginning of the 2025 school year.

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

The infographic shows four paths for children's early education:

- Ethan (3 years old):** 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 after school program while his parents work. Starts Kindergarten.
- Amelia (4 years old):** Cared for by her family members. Attends part-day TK at her local public school; there is care for her by family members when TK is finished for the day. Starts Kindergarten.
- Olivia (4 years old):** Cared for by a family childcare provider near her parents' workplace. Moves to a full-day dual language TK classroom. Starts Kindergarten.
- Mateo (5 years old):** 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.

By 2025, TK will be available for free to all 4-year-olds in California through the local school system. TK is optional! Families can choose to enroll their child in TK for the next school year when they become eligible. There are a variety of ways to add TK into your child's early learning journey, including using other UPK programs.

- Take Ethan. When he's 3-years-old, he attends a full day CSPP program that's run by a licensed preschool center. When he's 4 he moves to a full day Transitional Kindergarten program at his local elementary school. He attends an on-campus before and after school program while his parents work. And then when he's 5 years old, he starts Kindergarten.
- Amelia is cared for by family members until she is 4-years-old, when she moves to a part-time TK program. She is cared for by family after school.
- At 3-years-old, Olivia is cared for by a family childcare provider near her parents' workplace until she begins a full-day dual language TK program when she turns 4.
- And then we have Mateo who attends a private PreK program until he is old enough to start TK. He attends after school care at the Boys and Girls program.

TK 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.

Here is information on how to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten. Registration will happen at your local elementary school or school district, similar to how you register for kindergarten.

Welcoming Environments for All Children

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

- The State of California is working hard and utilizing new resources to ensure that UPK programs are welcoming environments for all children.
- We want to create places where children of all abilities are supported and welcomed, and that each child's culture, race, identity, and language are respected.
- We're taking steps to ensure educators value and know how to support bilingualism.
- We're also supporting educators to understand the value of play and use play-based approaches to build the skills children need to succeed in school and life.






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

California is taking several steps to make sure that UPK classrooms will support children of all abilities, skill levels, and backgrounds.

- We've reserved spots in preschool classrooms specifically for children with disabilities. By 2025, 10% of all CA State Preschool spots will be saved for children with disabilities.
- We are teaching educators about managing normal behavior that may

	<p>be labeled “challenging” in young children and how to include children of all abilities in activities together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are helping educators give children different ways to show what they’ve learned so they can build on their skills. - We are ensuring all educators know how to support dual language learners and encourage students to use their home language in the classroom.
 <p>As UPK expands, so will the team needed to support these programs.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>www.xx.org</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UPK workforce is a big focus right now, and as the program expands we're going to need more and more folks to support these programs. - Working in PreK programs is a great way to earn your degree and teaching credential while working full-time! - It’s possible to work full-time and receive benefits while earning a degree in teaching as a Teachers’ Assistant (TA) in a PreK program. There are no college requirements to become a TA. - California has made a number of grants and scholarships available for anyone who is looking to start their career in early childhood learning. - You can go here to learn more information about job opportunities that you're interested in, or to let friends or family know.
<p>We Want to Hear From You!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.  	<p>We want to hear from you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 this site to find out what transportation options are available. - You can learn about early intervention services for children with disabilities. - You can learn what programs are offered in your community at this link.
	<p>Thank you so much for coming to learn more about UPK programs in our community! You can find more information and materials on UPK at this link or by scanning the QR code with your phone.</p>