



# Family Guide to Universal PreKindergarten

Families of 4-year-olds face a unique range of educational options for their children in California. Attending a high-quality early education program prepares children to develop critical social-emotional, early literacy, and math skills to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. Finding the best option for your child takes time and research. You know your child best. This guide will support you in determining which program will best meet your child's needs.



## HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT AS YOU CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR YOUR CHILD:

- Do children find joy in learning?
- Do your family and child feel valued, respected, and included in the school community?
- Does your child have access to all learning opportunities and materials, regardless of their abilities?
- Are relationships between children and teachers loving and nurturing?
- Is the environment safe and healthy?
- How is play integrated into all learning areas?
- How do teachers support the child's home language?
- How does the outdoor play environment support learning and physical development?
- Is your child able to communicate their personal needs, such as using the bathroom?

## CONSIDERATIONS FAMILIES SHOULD KEEP IN MIND:

Cost of program	Before/after school care	Hours/months of operation	Student support services
Readiness of your child	Transportation	Meals provided	Expectations for Child

## EARLY LEARNING AND CARE RESOURCES

Children's Home Society  
<https://www.chs-ca.org>  
714-543-2273



The Orange County Department of Education, Early Learning  
<https://qualitystartoc.org>



# Family Guide to Universal PreKindergarten (UPK)

## FINDING THE BEST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR YOUR 4-YEAR-OLD



### UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN OPTIONS FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD

	Definition	Age Requirements	Teacher Qualifications	Student-Teacher Ratios
California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Includes part- and full-day services for income-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	<p><u>Director:</u> 24 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Units + 16 General Education (GE) Units + 3 Adult Supervision Units, and BA Degree</p> <p><u>Master Teacher:</u> Teacher + 6 ECE Units in Specialization + 2 Adult Supervision Units</p> <p><u>Teacher:</u> 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units</p> <p><u>Associate Teacher:</u> 12 ECE Units</p>	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.	Ages vary by program type	Teacher qualifications may vary by program. Please consult with the specific program to learn more.	Varies by program
Head Start	A federal program for income-eligible families that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age 5 by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.	2 to 5-year-old children	<p><u>Center Director:</u> Bachelor degree in ECE or related field + Site Supervisor permit</p> <p><u>Teacher:</u> Associate of Arts degree in ECE or related field + a Child Development Teacher permit.</p> <p><u>Teacher Assistant:</u> Qualifies for or holds an Associate Teacher permit</p>	1 adult to 10 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.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 2px;">2022-23:</p> <p>Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 2px;">2023-24:</p> <p>Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and Apr. 2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="background-color: #f4a460; color: white; padding: 2px;">2024-25:</p> <p>Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and June 2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 2px;">2025-26:</p> <p>Turns 4 by Sept. 1</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">***</p>	Credentialed teachers are required to complete 24 early childhood education units or obtain a Child Development Permit by Aug.1, 2023.	<p>2022-23: 1 adult to 12 children</p> <p>2023-24: 1 adult to 10 children*</p>

\*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.