



What is the difference between Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Transitional Kindergarten in Fontana USD?

We all want the best for our children, especially when it comes to their education. If you have a little one who is getting ready to start their schooling journey, then you want to make sure that they get the best overall experience possible. Since going from no school to kindergarten could be a shock to your child, it is essential to enable them to become more accustomed to the school system and be prepared for what is to come.

At the time of enrollment, you will need to know which of the Early Learning Program you would like to enroll your child into. To shed some light, here is a breakdown of each program, so you can determine which would be the optimal one for your child.

The Preschool Program is the first step in your child's educational journey. When your child will turn 3 by December 1st, they are age eligible to enroll into the Fontana USD, State Preschool 3-yearPK old Program. The Preschool Program is aligned to the developmental needs of a 3-year old. The program is a 3-hour part-day program for 180 school days. Children in this program do not need to be toilet trained.

The 3-year old program aligns to the California Preschool Learning Foundations (48-months) and California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks. The program encourages exploration and play-based activities that emphasize offering your child individually, culturally, and linguistically responsive learning experiences and environments.

ENROLL TODAY

Visit www.fusd.net/enrollment to learn how to enroll your child into one of our Early Learning Programs

- Preschool
(3 to 4 year-old)
- Pre-Kindergarten
(4 to 5 year-old)
- Transitional Kindergarten
(4 to 5 year-old)

MORE INFO

For more information regarding the Early Learning Programs in Fontana USD

Visit [Early Education Programs / Early Education Programs \(fusd.net\)](http://Early Education Programs / Early Education Programs (fusd.net)) or call the Early Education Department at: 909-357-5000 ext. 29226



Curriculum & Daily Activities

The 3-year old program incorporates theme based activities that span across content areas: Literacy, language, mathematics, science, social and emotional, and emergent writing. Students are exposed to a print-rich environment to promote comprehension and vocabulary as well as an introduction to a variety of literature: fiction, nonfiction, poems, songs, and rhymes. They usually start the day with "Circle Time" and learn a math skill (counting, matching, patterns, etc.), science skill or literacy skill (read a book, finger play, music and movement, etc.). Playground time allows the children to enhance their gross motor skills and explore different environments with their friends. Each day there are 60 minutes of Child Choice Centers that focus on learning through play with extension of ideas and higher level thinking that are facilitated through positive interactions with the preschool staff and peers. Nutrition is served daily.

The State Preschool Pre-Kindergarten (PK4) Program and the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program are for children the year before they enter Kindergarten. It can be confusing to understand the differences between the PK4 and TK pre-kindergarten programs, and which program is the best option for your child. Here are some program details to help you understand the similarities and differences with both 4-year old pre-kindergarten program.

	State Preschool Pre-Kindergarten Program (PK3 & PK4)	Transitional Kindergarten Program (TK)
Daily Hours/Days	Part-Day Program, 180 days 3-hours a day	Part-Day Program, 180 days 4-hours 20 minutes a day
Maximum Class Size	24	24
Ratio	1 Adult to 8 Students	1 Adult to 12 Students
Locations	Offered at 24 FUSD Elementary Schools	Offered at 22 FUSD Elementary Schools
Program Eligibility	Age Eligible Resident of State of California Subsidized CDE Childcare Program <u>Eligibility Criteria Include:</u> -Foster/Child Protective Services -Income Eligible -IEP -Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible	Age Eligible Resident in the FUSD Enrollment Boundaries Available to all age eligible children
Age Eligibility by Date of Birth	PK3 - September 2, 2020 – December 2, 2021 PK4 - September 2, 2019- September 1, 2020	September 2, 2019 - June 2, 2020
Teacher Credential	California Child Development Permit, Teacher level or higher <u>and</u> 24 Semester Units in Early Childhood Education	California Multiple Subject Credential <u>and</u> 24 Semester Units in Early Childhood Education
Instructional Standards Alignment	California Preschool Learning Foundations (60 months) & California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks	California Preschool Learning Foundations (60 months) & California Preschool Curriculum Frameworks



Curriculum & Daily Activities

The 4-year old Pre-Kindergarten programs incorporates district adopted curricula that span across content areas: Language and literacy, mathematics, history/social science, science, social and emotional, and emergent writing. Students are exposed to an integrated educational experience where they learn academics and social skills through a play-based environment that prepares them for the rigor of kindergarten. This includes whole group, small group, and individual activities aligned to student interest and needs. Differentiated instruction is provided through the small group activities. Students build comprehension, vocabulary, math, science, and literacy skills in a print-rich environment that builds on the intrinsic exploration of each child during Child Choice Center time (Technology, Literacy, Writing, Math, Dramatic Play, Science, Sensory, Block, Library, and Art). Gross motor skills are developed through daily outdoor experiences. Nutrition is served daily.



RESOURCES

[California Preschool Learning Foundations](#)

[California Preschool Frameworks](#)

[Universal Prekindergarten FAQ's](#)

[Ages and Stages of Development](#)

[First 5 California ~ California's Parenting](#)

[Powerful Role of Play in Education](#)

Pre-K students are more than twice as likely to be ready for Kindergarten compared to students who didn't attend Pre-K

– The Urban Child Institute

FUSD Early Learning Programs Universal Pre-Kindergarten

3-year old
Preschool

4-year old
Pre-Kindergarten

4-year old
Transitional
Kindergarten

