



Universal
PreKindergarten

*California's
Great Start*

January 9, 2023



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



Early Learning and Care 0-3 years old

Early Head Start/Head Start

State-Funded Preschool

Licensed Childcare Center or Home

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver



Universal PreKindergarten 3-4 years old

Head Start

State-Funded Preschool

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Private PreK Provider

Family choice of Childcare or Home



Kindergarten 5-years-old

Starting
Kindergarten





Preschool Choices Available for 3–5 Year Olds

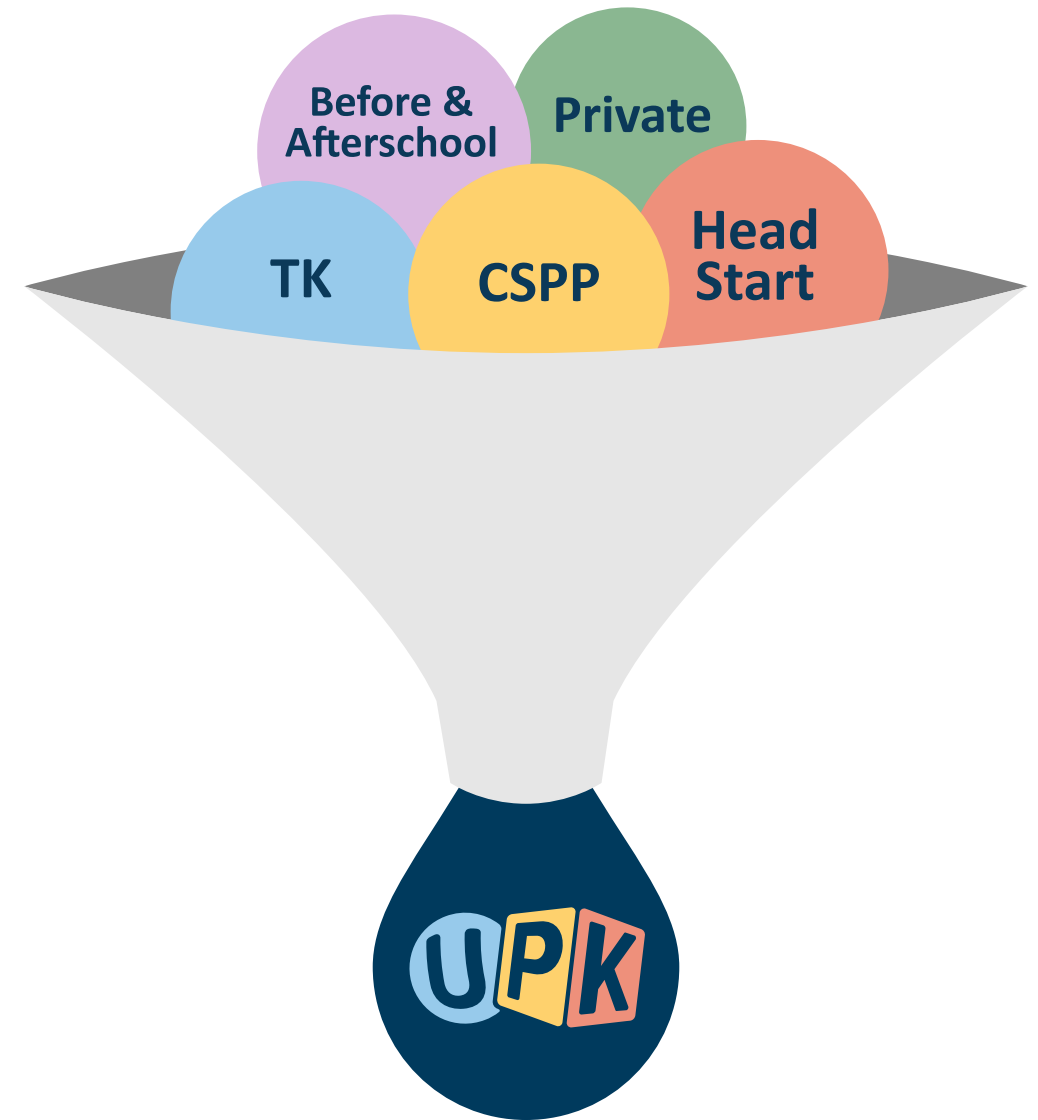
Families can choose from a variety of preschool programs for their young children. Here’s a breakdown of some of those choices:

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	Full-day options available	Full-day options available	Hours determined by individual preschool providers	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	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.





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



Head Start

Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you

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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



When can my child start TK ?

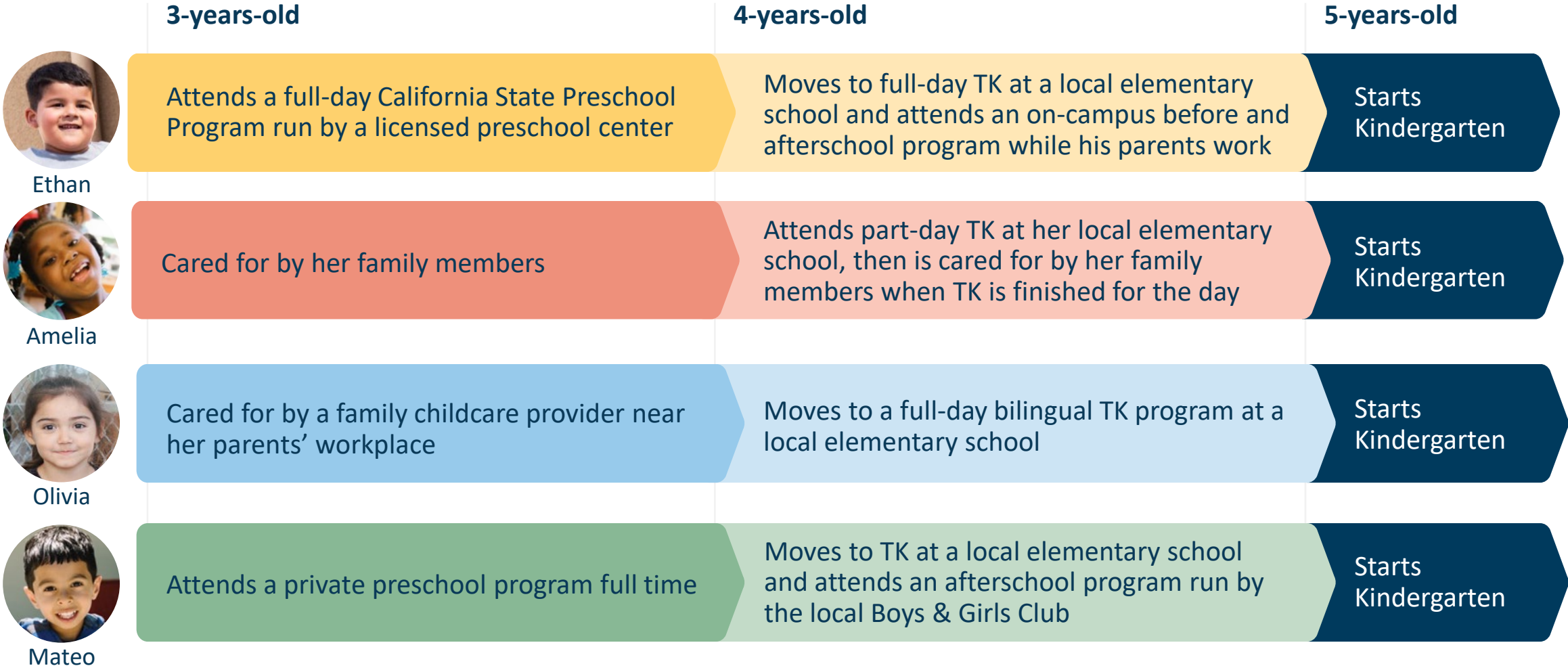
Your child can start Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at the beginning of the school year with the following birth dates.





Your child's journey to Kindergarten is up to you

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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

