Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum Summary

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. The curriculum is a blend of the Kindergarten California Standards and the **Preschool Learning Foundations** for 5-year-olds.

Transitional Kindergarten is part of the public school system and is free to participating students; however, registration in TK is optional. Students who enroll will attend the program for one full school year and then attend kindergarten at their school of assignment the following school year.

Transitional Kindergarten is taught by credentialed teachers and is intended to give young learners a head start and provide them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs. Teachers will help children develop social and communication skills through a program that builds confidence while supporting the traditional kindergarten curriculum of math, literacy, and language development taught in interactive ways.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Social-emotional development is a key component of transitional kindergarten. In social-emotional learning, students…

- Develop and maintain a positive sense of self and rewarding relationships with others (peers and adults)
- Identify emotions and manage impulses and emotions
- Follow rules and meet expectations
- Work in both independent and cooperative settings
- Focus attention
- Initiate and sustain peer play
- Resolve social conflict

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

TK students grow in their ability to communicate with others, express ideas, and reasoning using language. They are beginning to represent thoughts and ideas using written symbols. They hear and interact with both literature and information texts in both teacher-led and student-initiated learning.

- Develop both comprehension and collaboration by listening and speaking in the presentation of knowledge and vocabulary
- Develop vocabulary with a variety and specificity of words, both simple and complex
- Phonological awareness (the sounds that letters make) helps students prepare for decoding new words
- Concepts of print focus on appropriate book handling, convention, and the understanding that print carries meaning. Students begin to recognize their name and beginning sight words and begin developing control in writing or drawing letters or shapes

MATHEMATICS

Transitional Kindergarten assists students as they move from intuitive mathematics to mathematics
taught in school. Focus is on the development of mathematical reasoning (e.g., representing, relating, analyzing, and explaining)

- Recite numbers to 20, recognize and name some numerals, count up to 10 objects, and recognize that the number name of the last object counted represents the total number
- Compare groups, understanding that adding or subtracting one changes the number, and combining two groups to make a larger group help students prepare for addition and subtraction
- Sort and classify objects, duplicate patterns, and extend and create patterns
- Compare the length, weight, or capacity of objects, ordering four or more objects by size
- Identify, describe, and construct a variety of shapes
- Identify the position of objects and people's relative positions

SCIENCE

- Young learners are naturally curious, and science focuses on teaching inquiry skills.
- Raising questions, observing and describing, and making predictions
- Recording information in a variety of ways and sharing findings
- Observing, investigating, and describing characteristics and physical properties of objects (e.g., earth materials like sand and rocks, animals, and plants)
- Developing awareness that objects and materials can change
- Observing, describing, and discussing changes in weather

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Students begin by learning about themselves, their families, and their local communities.
- Students are encouraged to demonstrate their cultural, ethnic, and racial identity and show interest in diversity
- Take the initiative in developing relationships based on mutual responsibilities
- Understanding a variety of adult roles and occupations
- Engagement in group activities including decision making, respect for the majority, and valuing the views of others
- Exploring family history

Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum is described in this document from the California Department of Education. http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/documents/tkguide.pdf