

# Parents' Guide to Student Success

Panama-Buena  
Vista Union  
School District



*Transitional K*

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for Kindergarten.

## **COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school.

Since 2010, 45 states have adopted the same standards for English and math. These standards are called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Having the same standards helps all students get the same high quality education, even if they change schools or move to a different state. Teachers, parents, and education experts designed the standards to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

(taken from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>)

## English Language Arts & Literacy

### Overview

TK bridges the path between home, preschool, and kindergarten and gives students a head start that will yield huge payoffs in future academic success. TK offers children developmentally appropriate curriculum aligned with California Preschool Learning Foundations and the Kindergarten Common Core Standards.

### A sample of what your child will be working on in TK:

- Early Literacy
- Listening and speaking
- Vocabulary rich environment
- Concepts of print
- Phonological awareness
- Letter names and sounds
- Exposure to a wide variety of children's literature
- Fine motor skill development
- Large motor skill development
- Play-based interactive learning in individual, small-group, or whole-group learning experiences

### Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In TK, these include:

- Relationships and social interactions with peers; responsible conduct; following directions
- Developing an understanding of language, emergent writing, communicating needs, feelings, and interests

# Mathematics

## Overview

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### A sample of what your child will be working on in TK:

- Hands-on, experimental mathematics
- One-to-one correspondence
- Counting objects to ten
- Reciting numbers to twenty
- Sorting and classifying
- Patterns
- Shapes

## How to Help Your Child at Home

Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math uninterrupted by friends, brothers or sisters, or other distractions.

You should also try and sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works at home. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both inside and outside the classroom.

### English Language Arts and Literacy

- Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Keep paper, markers, or crayons around the house for your child to draw a picture about his or her day. Have your child describe the picture to you.
- Play word games like I Spy, sing songs like Itsy Bitsy Spider, and make silly rhymes together.

### Mathematics

- Look for “word problems” in real life. Some TK examples might include:
- Play “Say the next number.” You say a number, and your child says the next number.
- Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 10 things. For example, ask, “How many books do you have about wild animals?”
- Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. “Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?”

### Helpful Websites:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

<http://www.pta.org/index.cfm>

Visit the District’s website for additional information helpful to parents @ <http://www.pbvUSD.k12.ca.us/Page/7094>