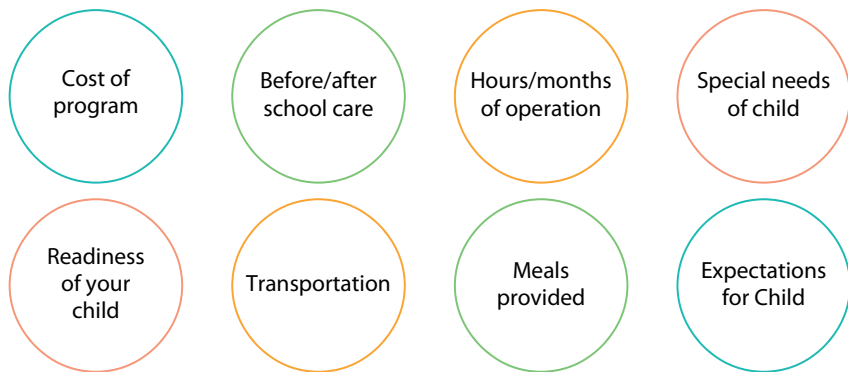


A family knows their child best

Finding the best option takes time and research. These are some components that families can consider when choosing the early learning and care option that best meets the needs of the child and family:

- Your child's learning style and interests are supported by the program and setting.
- Families and children are valued, respected, and welcomed within the school community.
- Learning opportunities and materials are accessible to all children, regardless of their abilities.
- Relationships between children and teachers are loving and nurturing.
- The environment is safe and healthy.
- Children learn through play.
- Children's cultures and home languages are valued and supported.
- Outdoor play environment supports learning and physical development.

Additional considerations



Sonoma County
Office of Education

This brochure was produced by the Child Care Planning Council and the Sonoma County Office of Education.

Guide to Universal PreKindergarten

*Finding the best educational program
for your 4-year-old*



Families of 4-year-olds face unique educational options for their children in California. Attending a high-quality early education program helps children develop critical social and emotional, early literacy, and math skills to prepare for kindergarten and beyond. Additionally, a child with a disability cannot be excluded from any Universal PreKindergarten option. This guide will support you in determining which program will best meet your child's and family's needs. The agencies listed below are equipped to answer questions.

Resource and referral agencies

**Community Child Care Council
of Sonoma County (4Cs)**
707-544-3077
sonoma4cs.org

**River to Coast
Children's Services**
707-869-3613
rccservices.org

Early learning and care resources

**Child Care Planning Council
of Sonoma County**
707-524-2792
scoe.org/ccpc

**Sonoma County
Office of Education**
707-522-3163
scoe.org/upk

**Special Ed. Local
Plan Area (SELPA)**
707-524-2750
sonomaselpa.org

Guide to Universal PreKindergarten (UPK)

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

UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN OPTIONS FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD

Setting Type	Definition	Age Requirements	Student-Teacher Ratios
Center-Based Care	Includes community-based and private preschool programs. Some programs may accept subsidized vouchers. Curriculum varies by program and may include specializations like language immersion, Montessori, nature-focused, or other.	Ages vary by program	Minimum of 1 adult to 12 children, but may vary by program
Family Child Care and Family, Friend or Neighbor Care	Licensed family child care is offered in a home-based setting. Family, friend, or neighbor care is provided in the child's or child care provider's home by a person who is a relative, friend, neighbor, or other license-exempt provider. Some providers may accept subsidized vouchers. Curriculum varies by provider. Families may choose this type of care for linguistic or cultural reasons, or for flexibility in scheduling, and transportation reasons.	Ages vary by provider	Minimum of 1 adult to 8 children, but may vary by program
Subsidized Care	Includes CA State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Head Start. Programs offer part-and full-day services for eligible families. Families may qualify based on income, disability or for other reasons. Provides a curriculum that is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for the children served.	Children ages 2 years and 9 months through 5 years	CSPP: 1 adult to 8 children Head Start: 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.	<p>2023-24: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and Apr. 2 2024-25: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and June 2 2025-26: Turns 4 by Sept. 1</p> <p>**</p>	2023-24: 1 adult to 12 children 2024-25: 1 adult to 12 children 2025-26: 1 adult to 10 children

* If you need before and/or after-school care, check with your district regarding their Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP).

**School districts have the discretion to admit students outside of the yearly TK eligibility birthday window.