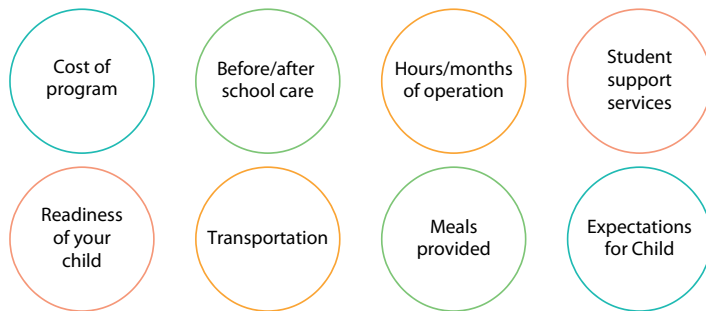


Here are some questions to think about as you consider options for your child:

- Do children find joy in learning?
- Do your family and child feel valued, respected, and included in the school community?
- Does your child have access to all learning opportunities and materials, regardless of their abilities?
- Are relationships between children and teachers loving and nurturing?
- Is the environment safe and healthy?
- How is play integrated into all learning areas?
- How do teachers support the child's home language?
- How does the outdoor play environment support learning and physical development?
- Is your child able to communicate their personal needs, such as using the bathroom?

Considerations families should keep in mind:



Early Learning and Care Resources

**Sonoma County
Office of Education**
(707) 524-2600
scoe.org/upk

**Child Care Planning Council
of Sonoma County**
(707) 524-2639
scoe.org/ccpc

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

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

Family Guide to Universal Pre-Kindergarten

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



Families of 4-year-olds face a unique range of educational options for their children in California. Attending a high-quality early education program prepares children to develop critical social-emotional, early literacy, and math skills to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. Finding the best option for your child takes time and research. You know your child best. This guide will support you in determining which program will best meet your child's needs.



Family Guide to Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

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



UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD

	Definition	Age Requirements	Teacher Qualifications	Student-Teacher Ratios
California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Includes part-and full-day services for income-eligible families. Provides a curriculum that is developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate for the children served.	2 years, 9 months to 5-year-old children	<u>Director:</u> 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units + 3 Adult Supervision Units, and BA Degree <u>Master Teacher:</u> Teacher + 6 ECE Units in Specialization + 2 Adult Supervision Units <u>Teacher:</u> 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units <u>Associate Teacher:</u> 12 ECE Units	1 adult to 8 children
Early Learning and Care	Includes community-based and private programs, family child care providers, and family, friend, and neighbor care.	Ages vary by program type	Teacher qualifications may vary by program. Please consult with the specific program to learn more.	Varies by program
Head Start	A federal program for income-eligible families that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age 5 by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.	3 to 5-year-old children	<u>Director:</u> 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units + 3 Adult Supervision Units, and BA Degree <u>Associate Teacher:</u> 12 ECE Units <u>Site Assistant:</u> 6 ECE Units	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.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 2022-23: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and Feb. 2 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 2023-24: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and Apr. 2 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 2024-25: Turns 5 between Sept. 2 and June 2 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 2025-26: Turns 4 by Sept. 1 </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p>	Credentialed teachers are required to complete 24 early childhood education units or obtain a Child Development Permit by Aug.1, 2023.	2022-23: 1 adult to 12 children 2023-24: 1 adult to 10 children*
Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (ETK)	Local school districts can choose to enroll 4-year-olds in TK whose fifth birthdays occur after the eligibility date, generally referred to as "Expanded TK."	School districts can only offer ETK to 4-year-olds whose 5th birthday occurs within the school year and not after June 30.	Credentialed teachers are required to complete 24 early childhood education units or obtain a Child Development Permit by Aug. 1, 2023.	2022-23: 1 adult to 12 children 2023-24: 1 adult to 10 children

*The 1 : 10 ratio will be in effect as funding becomes available.

*** It is at the school district's discretion to admit students outside of the yearly TK eligibility birthday window.

- How is children's play integrated into daily learning activities?
- Are teachers and children engaged in conversations?
- Do the children appear to enjoy the learning?
- Does the classroom include learning focuses, e.g., early literacy, math, etc.

