



Program Options for Children Ages 4 & 5

What options does Foothill Christian School & Preschool provide parents?

Foothill offers four options for parents of students who are 4 and 5. Regular Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, and a 4 year old class. These programs have always been offered at Foothill, but were re-named to better align with what most people associate with the terms.

Regular kindergarten and TK are both considered early childhood education programs, but there are definitely some differences. Transitional kindergarten is intended to be a transition program that serves as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten. The curriculum in TK is modified to be more age and developmentally appropriate for younger children, while kindergarten has a more challenging academic curriculum. There are state standards for the learning goals and objectives specific for each program, but it's fair to say that TK focuses on readiness and kindergarten begins to build upon those readiness foundations. Junior Kindergarten is very similar to a TK program but would also include children who are age-eligible for kindergarten but are looking for a bonus year of social, emotional, and/or academic development.

Age Requirements:

KINDERGARTEN	Turns 5 <i>On or Before</i> Sept. 1, 2026
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN	Turns 5 <i>Between</i> Sept. 2 - Dec. 1, 2026 or is K eligible but prefers a bonus year.
TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN	Turns 5 <i>After</i> Sept. 1, 2026
4 YEAR OLD CLASS	4s who are too young for TK or Jr. K

If the adage, "Everything I needed to learn, I learned in Kindergarten." is true, then placing children in a program most suitable to their learning needs and developmental readiness is an imperative.

Parents should work closely with their preschool teachers to help determine the best placement for their child.

KINDERGARTEN (K)

LOCATION: ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

FCS offers three kindergarten classes at the Baseline Campus. This is a full day program (no naps) with standard kindergarten learning goals and age appropriate academic rigor. Students in the regular kindergarten wear school uniforms and participate in enrichment classes such music, physical education, and library times. Class size is 18 students with one teacher and a part-time aide.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (JR. K)

LOCATION: ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Junior Kindergarten is a "step-down" kindergarten program offered at the Baseline elementary school. The term is not new, but was the precursor to TK programs, and usually included kindergarten age-eligible students, as well. Our Junior Kinder program is for two distinct target groups. First, are students who are age eligible for kindergarten but would benefit from an additional year of readiness...often referred to as a bonus year. The second target group are children who are TK eligible (see chart), but prefer greater emphasis on academics, no naps, wearing school uniforms, and access to the elementary enrichment programs. Class size is 18 students with one teacher and a part-time aide.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)

LOCATION: PRESCHOOL CAMPUS

Foothill Christian Preschool will now offer three or four TK classes at the Rt. 66 campus. These classes were formerly called "Advanced Pre-K" but the curriculum and readiness goals align with the more commonly known TK program. So, for Foothill, it's mostly a name change to help parents better understand the program their child will receive. Families will have the option to place their child in a TK room that offers naps or a TK room that does not. Enrichment classes are incorporated into the classroom curriculum. Class size meets state licensing requirements for preschool classes which is one teacher with 12 students.

4 YEAR OLD CLASS

LOCATION: PRESCHOOL CAMPUS

Four year old children who are not age eligible for TK will be enrolled in a traditional 4-year-old preschool class.