



Tustin Unified School District

Tustin Unified School District

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Tustin Unified School District

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

A Strong Start for Young Learners



A Two-Year Kindergarten Program

For more information:

<http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 is legislation that changed the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1 so children begin kindergarten at age 5. The rollback was implemented over a 3-year period, rolling back one month per year beginning in 2012-2013.

- 2012-13 November 1
- 2013-14 October 1
- 2014 -15 September 1

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 also created a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for those students who miss the cutoff and who will be five years old between:

- November 2 - December 2 in 2012-13
- October 2 - December 2 in 2013-14
- September 2 - December 2 in 2014 -15 and beyond

WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN?

Transitional Kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten for children turning 5 years old between September 2 and December 2. It is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program designed to build a solid foundation for success in school for “young” five-year-olds. The program is funded by the Kindergarten Readiness Act 2010 that changes the kindergarten entry age to September 1.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM?

The TK program is a hybrid between kindergarten standards and preschool foundations and taught by credentialed Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) teachers. It promotes each child’s progress in all three domains of growth: intellectual, physical, and social-emotional. Much care is given to providing a rich, stimulating environment in which active learning is the hallmark where each child develops and practices the physical and social-emotional skills that naturally accompany intellectual growth. The TK program offers the young child “the gift of time” – an additional year to grow and learn in an environment that supports differences in growth and maturity rates.

In Transitional Kindergarten, teachers help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. They also expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using

educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

HOW CAN MY CHILD QUALIFY AND REGISTER FOR THE TK PROGRAM?

Children who live within the TUSD boundaries and turn five between September 2 and December 2, 2020, qualify to register for TK classes at designated schools. Registration materials will be available at your neighborhood school during Kindergarten Registration and thereafter. TK is a voluntary program and is funded by the state at no cost to parents. TK classes will be located regionally in TUSD schools. Parents will transport their child to and from the designated school. The following year, students will register for kindergarten at their home school.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TK AND TRADITIONAL KINDERGARTEN?

- Traditional kindergarten is based on kindergarten Common Core standards with high expectations of mastery.
- Transitional Kindergarten is a hybrid program blending preschool foundations and kindergarten Common Core Standards with high expectations based on the preschool curriculum, making a bridge to success in kindergarten and beyond by having the gift of time. Mastery of kindergarten standards is not expected.

HOW WILL THE TK CLASS HELP MY CHILD?

The TK program assists children to:

- Develop a positive self-image.
- Establish productive social and working relationships with peers through cooperative play situations.
- Develop self-direction and assuming responsibility for themselves and their environments.
- Increase vocabulary, listening, speaking and memory skills, and the ability to follow directions.
- Develop large and small muscle skills.
- Improve overall readiness and foster an enthusiasm for learning.

For more information, please contact:
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