HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN (UPK)?

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) is California's way of providing early care and education choices for 3-and 4-year-old children. Attending an early care and education program prepares children to succeed in school and gives them an opportunity to meet new friends. All families can participate in UPK, no matter their income or immigration status.

UPK Universal PreKindergarten California's Great Start

What are the different types of UPK programs?

Child care and education centers are licensed programs that offer early care and education services to children of different ages in a school-like setting. A program may be free or charge a fee.

Family child care homes are licensed programs that offer care to children of different ages in a home setting. A program may be free or charge a fee.

Transitional kindergarten (TK) is an early education program for 4-year-olds offered at most elementary schools. It is free to all families regardless of how much money they earn.

Is my child old enough for UPK?

All 3 -year olds can go to:

- Child Care & Education Centers
- Family Child Care Homes

All 4 -year olds can go to:

- Child Care & Education Centers
- Family Child Care Homes

4 -year olds born by September 1st can go to:

- Child Care & Education Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Transitional Kindergarten

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

County of Los Angeles Public Health

Do I have to pay for UPK?

It depends on which program you choose.
Some programs are free and some charge a fee. You can get help paying those fees through programs like Head Start, California State Preschool, and Alternative Payment Programs. This assistance is based on your income and household size.

- **Head Start** and **California State Preschool Programs** are offered at child care and education centers.

- **Alternative Payment** assistance is accepted by most family child care homes and child care and education centers.

- **Elementary schools** offer transitional kindergarten for free regardless of income.

To learn if you can get help with costs, contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency. Find yours at CCALA.net/connect

How can UPK help my child?

Providing your child with quality experiences with a caring professional in a safe space is priceless. Early care and education programs give children a chance to:

Make Friends: Play, share, and cooperate.

Gain Independence: Try new things and build confidence.

Meet New People: Appreciate everyone's uniqueness.

Move and Play: Improve physical skills.

Prepare for School: Learn numbers, letters, shapes, and ease into kindergarten.

Stay Curious: Ask questions and explore.

How do I find a UPK provider in my neighborhood?

To find early care and education options in your area, visit mychildcareplan.org.

To see which elementary schools offer transitional kindergarten, contact your school district. Find your district here or scan the QR code.

Map of School Districts and R&Rs

For more information, please visit ccala.net/upk

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