

Transitional Kindergarten Course of Study

Transitional kindergarten bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten and gives students the gift of time that will help them build a strong foundation for future school success. It blends social and emotional experience with academic learning, so that students not only learn essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills, but also develop social and self-regulation skills needed to succeed in school and life.

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The classroom space you create, tailor-made to the needs and experiences of young learners, will be crucial in helping them get the most out of TK, as well as laying the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. The TK classroom environment should be engaging, promote movement, and be responsive to the background and experiences of your transitional kindergarten student.

Throughout the day, young students should be actively engaged in play-based activities that are connected to theme-based, integrated curriculum. The TK GRID we provide is designed to support an integrated and differentiated approach to instruction. The teaching strategies and lesson plans provide hands-on ways to support children across a continuum of learning and to make connections between domains.

DOMAINS

Social-Emotional Development: Research shows how important it is for children to feel secure, valued and cared about, and to develop strong social-emotional skills. Current research tells us that self-regulation of emotions and behavior is one of the strongest predictors of academic success and leads to success in the workplace, in social settings and in life for all young schoolchildren. As a homeschool educator, you have the opportunity to play a vital role in children's lives during a period of critical social-emotional growth by providing the TK student security and consistency for growth in this area.

English Language Arts: Rich language experiences during the transitional kindergarten year play an important role in ensuring that children are able to read at proficiency by third grade. The early literacy skills of conversation and oral language, alphabet knowledge, book and print rules, phonological awareness, and vocabulary and background knowledge will be covered using various tradebooks, lessons and supplemental materials provided.

Mathematics: In transitional kindergarten, mathematics can be taught, and discovered, in a child's everyday environment. For example, students will be introduced to concepts and relationships of numbers and quantities as they recite numbers in order to 10, count up to five objects or visually compare two groups of objects and express if they are the "same" or "more." They will learn important foundations of mathematics while engaging in imaginative play, exploring the environment and materials and making new discoveries.

English Language Development: Multiple and integrated language and literacy rich experiences promote young students' acquisition of English through listening, speaking, reading and writing embedded in the instructional program throughout the day.

CORE MATERIALS

The materials provided include teaching strategies in the Social-emotional, English Language Arts, Mathematics and English Language Development domains, while offering guidance in integrated and differentiated approaches to instruction. Lessons will be based on alignment between the Preschool Learning Foundations and the California Kindergarten Common Core Standards. The teaching strategies provide hands-on ways to support children across a continuum of learning through embedding learning within daily contexts, modeling, and giving children opportunities for practice. Curriculum includes various trade books, supplemental materials, and hands-on manipulatives to enrich your student's homeschool learning experience.

ENRICHMENT

Check the school's calendar for important dates (Living History Days, Enrichment Classes...) as well as some suggested activities for your child. See your Resource Teacher about getting copies of the Transitional Kindergarten Supplement Packets. These activities have been compiled to correlate with the grid and with seasons. Included in the Supplement Packets are art activities, writing, math, books for your child to make and read, and other fun activities.