

# Universal Prekindergarten Mixed Delivery System

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First 5 Riverside County, Children and Families Commission

Jennifer Beggs, Executive Director, Early Care and Education  
Division of Early Education Services



# What is Universal Pre-Kindergarten?

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), also known as “preschool access for all,” is a policy framework that provides all families with preschool access for their child should they choose to enroll their child in a pre-kindergarten program.

UPK is completely parent-choice; families are not required to enroll their child in a pre-kindergarten program.

Families have access to a mixed-delivery system of pre-kindergarten program options.

# What Options Make Up the UPK Mixed-Delivery System?


- **California State Preschool Program** – state-funded preschool program for 3 & 4 year old children (some sites may serve 2 year olds)
  - No cost to families who meet program eligibility requirements to qualify
- **Head Start** – federally-funded preschool program for 3 & 4 year old children
  - No cost to families who meet program eligibility requirements to qualify
- **Private Pay Preschool or Child Care** – private programs operating preschool/child care as a licensed center, licensed family child care home, or unlicensed family, friend, or neighbor care
  - Programs set their own rates for the services
  - Families may qualify for state child care subsidies to support with the costs of services
- **Transitional Kindergarten** – part of the public/charter school system; takes place the year before kindergarten (no cost)
  - Available to all age-eligible children: for the 2025-26 school year, children who turn 4 by September 1 are eligible for TK

# The UPK Mixed-Delivery System at-a-Glance

Name	California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Head Start	Private Pay Preschool	Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
Age	3- and 4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds	4-year-olds, depending on birthday
What it is	Preschool program funded by the State of California	Federally-funded preschool program	Preschool and childcare programs	Part of the public elementary school system that takes place the year before Kindergarten
Schedules	Part-day and full-day options determined by providers	Part-day and full-day options determined by providers	Part-day and full-day options determined by individual preschool providers	Part-day and full-day options determined by providers
Cost	Free or low-cost, depending on families' income and other factors	Free, depending on families' income and other factors	Fees determined by individual preschool providers. Some families may be eligible for state subsidized vouchers to cover the costs of care.	Free to everyone, regardless of income

# Resource Links

- RCOE Website [Universal PreKindergarten](#)
- California Department of Education Website <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp>
- CA UPK Website <https://cauniversalprek.org/>
- UPK Family Decision Chart [Family Decision Chart](#)




Division of Early Education Services

## Early Education & Child Care Options in Riverside County


From birth through age 5, your child is rapidly developing and learning from the world around them.

Give your child a strong start by enrolling them in one (or more!) of the many [early education and child care options](#) available based on your child's age:


For Ages 0-3	For Ages 4-5*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Head Start / Head Start</li> <li>• State-Funded Preschool</li> <li>• Alternative Payment Program</li> <li>• Licensed Center or Home</li> <li>• Family, Friend, or Neighbor Caregiver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Start</li> <li>• State-Funded Preschool</li> <li>• Transitional Kindergarten (TK)</li> <li>• Alternative Payment Program</li> <li>• Licensed Center or Home</li> <li>• Family, Friend, or Neighbor Caregiver</li> </ul> <p><small>*children not yet Kindergarten age eligible</small></p>



**90% of a child's brain develops by age 5**

 **Things to Consider When Making Your Choice**

What is available for my child?  
What options are best for me and my child?


 **Need Assistance Paying?**

If you are needing assistance in paying for child care or to research other options, please call 800-442-4927.

**What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?**

Transitional Kindergarten provides an opportunity for children, who are 4 and 5\* years old, to access an early education program. Some school districts may also accept children outside of the eligible 4 and 5 year old age range for early enrollment.

To learn about the TK options available through your local public schools, you may contact your local school district. To learn about all early education and child care options, you may contact RCOE, Resource & Referral at 800-442-4927 or by email at [randr@rcoe.us](mailto:randr@rcoe.us).



**Want More Information About Your Options?**  
Contact Riverside County Office of Education, Resource & Referral, at 800-442-4927 or by email at [randr@rcoe.us](mailto:randr@rcoe.us).  
[rcoe.us/departments/early-learning-services](https://rcoe.us/departments/early-learning-services)

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# Questions?

# Thank you!

Jennifer Beggs, Executive Director  
[jbeggs@rcoe.us](mailto:jbeggs@rcoe.us)  
(951) 826-6608

