

Effective Messages About Transitional Kindergarten

The following messages were developed based on feedback from parents on the most persuasive statements about transitional kindergarten. These messages may be helpful as part of communications trainings for district staff and educators, and can also be incorporated into outreach materials for families.

California's kindergarten curriculum and standards have **changed over the years**, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now taught in kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten is the **right program at the right time**.

Transitional kindergarten serves as a **bridge between preschool and kindergarten**, giving children more time for **hands-on, interactive learning**.

Transitional kindergarten provides children with the **gift of time** to learn skills that will help them build a **strong foundation for success** in elementary school.

Transitional kindergarten gives children the opportunity to spend time learning important **social, emotional and academic skills** that will help them succeed in kindergarten **and beyond**.

Transitional kindergarten provides young learners with high-quality kindergarten readiness **at no cost to parents**, to ensure that they have an opportunity to **continue learning**.

Transitional kindergarten helps children **adjust** to the school environment & develop **strong learning skills**.

Transitional kindergarten provides young 5 year olds with an opportunity to start their kindergarten experience with **children their own age**, and with teachers that can tailor lesson plans to their needs.

Parents all over California **recognize the benefits** of transitional kindergarten, and many parents have already been enrolling their children in **similar programs for years**.

— TIP —

***Develop messaging about transitional kindergarten:** Work with your Public Information Office to develop a set of talking points that can articulate the benefits of transitional kindergarten. Wherever possible, incorporate important information about implementation in your district. These talking points can be provided to district administrators, school board members, school administrators, and school faculty and staff (elementary school teachers, front office staff, etc.) to ensure consistent messaging on the benefits of the new program.*

Find more information on parent and community outreach in the Transitional Kindergarten Parent Engagement Toolkit