

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) is bringing more flexible, high-quality early learning choices for your 3- and 4-year-olds that address your families' childcare needs.

All families in California, regardless of immigration & income status, are eligible to participate.

UPK is made up of a variety of preschool programs that may be familiar to you.

Your family can choose the best preschool option that meet your cultural, family, and life needs.

You know your child best.

Regardless of the UPK program your family chooses, your child should experience an environment where:

- Children of all abilities are supported and welcomed.
- Each child's culture, race, identity, and language is respected.
- Educators are ready to support dual language learners and encourage children to use their home language in the classroom.
- Children are provided joyful learning that sparks their curiosity and sense of belonging.
- Play-based learning activities are used to build the skills they need to succeed in TK-3rd Grade subjects.



**Questions?
Contact Placer County Office of Education
Early Childhood Education
at 530.745.1380**

Name	California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Head Start	Center-Based Child Care & Family Child Care Homes	Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
Ages	3- and 4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds	Infant to 4-year-olds	4-year-olds, depending on birthday
What is it	Preschool program run through contracts from the State of California	Federally-funded preschool program	Variety of half-day and full-day preschool and childcare programs	Part of the public elementary school system that takes place the year before Kindergarten
Schedule	Full-day options available	Full-day options available	Hours determined by individual preschool providers	Full-day options available, depending on local decisions
Cost	Free or low-cost, based on income eligibility and other factors	Free, based on income eligibility	Fees determined by individual preschool providers	Free, regardless of income
Teacher Qualifications	<p>Associate Teacher: 12 ECE Units</p> <p>Teacher: 24 ECE Units + 16 GE Units</p> <p>Master Teacher: Teacher + 6 ECE Units in Specialization + 2 Adult Supervision Units</p>	<p>Teacher Assistant: 12 Units of ECE/CD</p> <p>Teacher: AA or higher in Child Development or ECE</p>	<p>Teacher qualifications may vary by program.</p> <p>Please consult with the specific program to learn more.</p>	<p>Credentialed teachers are required to complete 24 early childhood education units or obtain a Child Development Permit by August 1, 2025 or demonstrate equivalency of 24 units working with preschool age children as determined by the school district.</p>
Student-Teacher Ratios	1 Adult to 8 Children (1:8)	1 Adult to 9 Children (1:9)	Center - 1:12 Small FCCH - 1:8 Large FCCH - 2:14	1 Adult to 12 Children (1:12)
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