What Happens in Transitional Kindergarten?

In **Transitional Kindergarten**, teachers help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. They also expose children to reading and math in an exciting and interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns.

Riverside Transitional Kindergarten

- **Classroom:** Students will have their own classroom taught by a certified elementary teacher.

- **Length of School Day:** Students will attend daily, for a full day, the same as traditional kindergarten students.

- **Curriculum and Learning:** Students learn important kindergarten readiness skills emphasizing oral language development and social skills, letter and word recognition, and beginning mathematical concepts. These skills build o n what they may have learned in preschool and will help them be successful in the elementary school environment.

- **Learning Environment:** Students learn by working with the teacher in small and large groups and also have opportunities for independent exploration.

The benefits of an extra year in kindergarten with Smart Start Transitional Kindergarten can have a profound effect on the child's future ability to succeed in a rigorous academic environment.

Why is Transitional Kindergarten Good for Kids?

Transitional Kindergarten benefits children who need time to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and / or intellectually even though they are school age ready. This program acts as a bridge between a preschool environment and the more structured rigorous academic setting of kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically challenging environment that nurtures their growth. Research shows that children that attend kindergarten readiness programs such as a transitional program are more likely to do well in school and attend college.

How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about **Transitional Kindergarten** or if you have specific questions, please contact:

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SMART START
Transitional Kindergarten

Giving Children the Gift of Time

Transitional Kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and kindergarten primarily for children turning 5 years old between May 1st and August 31st or who have had no preschool experience. It gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that blends the best practices from preschool and kindergarten that are tailored to meet their academic and social / emotional developmental needs. This two year experience allows for students to be set up for success moving forward.

Transitional Kindergarten:

- Is based on the PA Core Standards and Early Learning Standards including focused instruction on pre-reading and math readiness skills with a strong emphasis on oral language development, self-regulation and social engagement.
- Smart Start TK is a WIN-WIN-WIN for children, families and schools!

"Transitional kindergarten gives the gift of time to children who are smart and capable but need another year to grow."

- Kindergarten Teacher

Starting school is a very exciting time for children and their families! It begins a new chapter in their lives and sets the tone for a child's future. As kindergarten curriculum and standards have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. This can make the transition into kindergarten difficult for some children, and the youngest children entering the kindergarten classroom often struggle to adjust.

Transitional Kindergarten, gives children an opportunity to learn in a hands-on, interactive way that supports their development, while still maintaining the rigor and high standards of kindergarten. It also gives them the opportunity to develop the social and academic skills and the confidence they will need to help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Why place my child in Transitional Kindergarten?

Both research and experience show that children do well when placed in an appropriate program matched to their developmental stages. Placing children in a program before they are ready may damage their self-esteem and overall feeling about learning. Giving children the foundational skills to support their academic needs allows children to experience school and learning in a more positive and rewarding manner.

Transitional Kindergarten vs. Waiting a Year

Since birth, parents have watched their child grow and develop. They have noted their child's height and weight and kept track of when he / she reached their first milestones such as crawling, standing, walking and speaking their first words. We know that each child develops that their own pace.

Think about your child in the areas of language, social, cognitive, and motor skill development and consider what program will best meet his / her needs at the start of their school career. **Transitional Kindergarten** may be the answer.

We will share the results of our kindergarten readiness screening and discuss your options with you. Parents know their child best and will ultimately decide if the **Transitional Kindergarten** program makes sense for their child.

SMART START
Transitional Kindergarten
is the first of a two year kindergarten experience for those children who will benefit from the "gift of time" as they embark on their educational journey.