

Expanded Transitional Kindergarten

Palo Alto Unified School District

PK-5 Elementary Education

The following information offers advantages and disadvantages about the effects of early kindergarten admittance for your consideration when determining if ETK is right for your child.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Expanded Transitional Kindergarten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serves as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten, giving children more time for hands-on, interactive learning. • gives children the opportunity to spend time learning important social, emotional and academic skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond. • helps children adjust to the school environment and develop strong learning skills. • is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program. • prepares students to transition to kindergarten. • helps young children learn school routines and activities. • builds confidence and maturity. • provides opportunities to learn in a school setting. • enhances language and literacy skills. • improves social skills and self-control. • promotes communication skills with classmates and teachers. • improves behavior. • offers a developmental approach that emphasizes the social and emotional needs of children. • increases academic achievement in the primary grades, compared to students who do not attend ETK. 	<p>Expanded Transitional Kindergarten:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be difficult for children with separation anxiety. • may be frustrating and/or lead to a negative attitude towards school, if the child is not academically ready. • can be controversial, because some argue that it's best to keep young children at home for most of the years before formal schooling begins. • does not guarantee long-term academic benefits, compared to students who do not attend ETK. • only provides students with a three-hour program, which may pose a challenge for those families needing additional child care.