



RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Educating for the Future Together”

2390 Bass Lake Road • Rescue, CA 95672

(530) 677-4461 • FAX (530) 677-0719

www.rescueusd.org

Getting Ready for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) A Family Checklist for Incoming Transitional Kindergarten Students

We're excited to welcome your child to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) this August! While our classrooms are warm, nurturing, and full of joyful learning experiences, TK is not a purely play-based environment. Families should expect an age-appropriate level of structure, routine, and academic readiness as part of the school day.

Our TK program balances exploration and hands-on activities with early skill development in language, math, social-emotional growth, and independence. Below is a list of helpful skills and habits that support a confident transition into TK. Every child develops at their own pace—this list is simply a guide to help you prepare your child for the exciting year ahead.

1. Social & Emotional Readiness

Separates from a caregiver without getting overly upset (please practice this before school begins if your child hasn't been without you) - **“Quick goodbyes leave dry eyes”**

- ☐ Understands the various adults they will be interacting with on campus...
- ☐ Understands that it's okay to go to the nurse if they do not feel well and they will not be getting shots
- ☐ Name and express basic feelings
- ☐ Listens to a short story without interrupting
- ☐ Wins and loses gracefully
- ☐ Shows curiosity and a willingness to try new activities
- ☐ Begins to play cooperatively with other children

2. Independence & Self-Care

- ☐ Bathroom skills – student does not wear a pull-up and can get on and off the toilet without assistance, wipe effectively and with an appropriate amount of toilet paper, flush without fear, pull up and button/snap pants, keep bathroom/stall door shut while in use, keep clothes on until door is closed
- ☐ Wash hands, wipe face, and blow nose, (cough, sneeze into elbow)
- ☐ Open and close snack, chip bags, and lunch containers; help clean up after self (teach the pinch-pinch-pull technique - think: opening a bag of chips)
- ☐ Peel fruit – bananas and oranges
- ☐ Take jackets and sweaters on and off and zip, button, and snap clothing
- ☐ Put on socks and shoes and fasten shoes
- ☐ Pack and unpack backpack
- ☐ Follow simple routines like lining up or cleaning up with teacher guidance
- ☐ Play independently

3. Early Language & Literacy

- ☐ Recognizes some letters in their name
- ☐ Can say or attempt to write their first name

- ☐ Speaks in full sentences to share ideas or ask questions
- ☐ Identifies basic rhyming words (cat/hat, sun/fun)

4. Early Math & Thinking Skills

- ☐ Can count aloud to 10 (or higher)
- ☐ Recognizes and names some numbers (0–10)
- ☐ Identifies basic shapes (circle, square, triangle)
- ☐ Understands simple comparisons (big/small, more/less)
- ☐ Sorts objects by color, size, or type

5. Fine & Gross Motor Skills

- ☐ Holds a crayon or pencil using fingers, not a fist
- ☐ Can use child-safe scissors to cut along a line
- ☐ Draws simple shapes or people with basic features
- ☐ Can hop, jump, and balance on one foot
- ☐ Uses playground equipment safely

6. Curiosity & Learning Habits

- ☐ Asks questions and enjoys discovering how things work
- ☐ Persists in completing short tasks

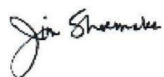
7. Family Tips for Readiness

- ☐ Establish a consistent bedtime and morning routine
- ☐ Read together daily—talk about pictures, predict what happens next
- ☐ Use big vocabulary words
- ☐ Encourage independence at home (putting away toys, dressing, helping set the table)
- ☐ Visit playgrounds and libraries to practice social and language skills
- ☐ Talk positively about starting school— Share positive stories and memories from when you were in school to help your child feel excited and confident!

If, after reviewing this list, you notice that your child is missing *several* of these readiness skills, it may be a sign that they could benefit from additional support before the start of school. While children grow and develop at different rates, these foundational skills are important for a successful transition into a TK classroom, where routines, independence, and early academic learning are an expectation and part of the daily experience.

If you have concerns about your child’s readiness—or if many of these boxes are difficult to check—please reach out to our school staff. We want to partner with you early, discuss any questions you may have, and work together to ensure your child begins Transitional Kindergarten with confidence and the support they need.

We can’t wait to see your child’s bright smile on the first day of Transitional Kindergarten! For questions or readiness resources, please contact your school office or visit our TK/K resource website which can be found at www.rescueusd.org [click on Registration and then click on Transitional Kindergarten (TK)/Kindergarten (K)]



Jim Shoemaker, Superintendent, Rescue Union School District