



Transitional Kindergarten

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A strong start for young learners.

Wapsie Valley Mission Statement: Guaranteed Learning for Every Student.



What is Transitional Kindergarten? Transitional Kindergarten is a bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten for children turning 5 years old by September 15. It gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs. If your child is young for his/her grade or has a summer birthday then Transitional Kindergarten is for you. If you know that you would like your child to participate in two academic years focused on the Kindergarten standards then Transitional Kindergarten is the place for your child. Or if your child requires some additional academic, social, or emotional support prior to participating in Kindergarten then Transitional Kindergarten is for your child.

Transitional Kindergarten: Transitional Kindergarten is part of the Wapsie Valley school system located at Fairbank Elementary and is free for families. Transportation is provided for students participating in Transitional Kindergarten that live in Readlyn. We use a unique, specialized curriculum tailored to each student's individual needs that is based on the Kindergarten standards. If needed, the curriculum can be designed to support young 5 year olds, students who may need an additional year of academic or social/emotional development before starting Kindergarten or for those who were planning on two years of Kindergarten experience. In our district, Transitional Kindergarten will be offered to children turning 5 years old to give them an opportunity to develop the social and academic skills and the confidence that will help them succeed in Kindergarten and beyond.

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I would highly recommend TK with Mrs. Studebaker. My son Hayden is super happy to go to school every single day and learn something new! I'm so excited to be able to have my youngest son participate in 2022-2023 school year because I know he will love it just as much as Hayden!

"My son has a summer birthday, so we decided to wait to send him to kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten has been such a great fit for him, and has truly prepared him for kindergarten. This year he has gained so much confidence, and really developed a love for school. Couldn't be happier with the program, and highly recommend it!"

"It's been the perfect balance of big enough to keep him challenged and socialized but also small enough for one on one attention and personalized curriculum."

"Initially we signed our son up for Kindergarten thinking he was ready. After the first couple weeks of school we noticed a change in him. He wasn't the happy, carefree boy he always was anymore. We decided maybe school was too stressful for him. We were so grateful that Wapsie Valley had the option for Transitional Kindergarten. We switched him classes, and he was back to his normal self! He has grown leaps and bounds in this class...it might help that Mrs. Studebaker is a saint!" TK with Mrs. Studebaker has been the best decision we have made for our son's education. He is learning so much and in such fun ways! He is always so eager to show us what he has learned and continue his learning exploration at home. Every day I am thankful that we chose this route with his learning because he is truly thriving in this amazing environment!

Why Transitional Kindergarten

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 children's futures. But Iowa's Kindergarten standards and curriculum 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. The good news is that Wapsie Valley created a Transitional Kindergarten program, giving 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.

What Happens in a Transitional Kindergarten Classroom? In Transitional Kindergarten, Mrs. Studebaker helps children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. She also exposes children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns. Transitional Kindergarteners have their own classroom with their own teacher. Transitional Kindergartners will attend school at the same time as the rest of the district. And, they participate in all Kindergarten activities such as music, library, and PE throughout the year.

How can I learn more? Mrs. Harskamp - Principal dharskamp@wapsievalleyschools.org
Mrs. Studebaker - Classroom Teacher, licensed through the State of Iowa to teach PK-3 jstudebaker@wapsievalleyschools.org and check us out on Facebook: Wapsie Studebaker
