# Early Learning Education Comparisons

## Transitional Kindergarten

- Ratio is 12:1 with a maximum capacity of 24 students.
- Classrooms are typically staffed with 1qualified teacher and 1 aide.
- Teachers may not have an early childhood educational background and experience.
- The schedule is typically 6 hours 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM or 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Early dismissal (1:30 PM or 2:30 PM) on Thursdays. Before and after care options are typically available through fee-based onsite or offsite programs.
- Before and after care options may be under the supervision of adults other than qualified teachers. Supervising adults may not be affiliated with the school.
- TK is typically free with public funding.
- Parenting support is typically offered via online resources or offsite locations.
- California law (*EC* 48000) defines TK as "the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate." Activities often include teacher-directed instruction. While no state curriculum is mandated, TK programs are intended to be aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations developed by the CDE.

## Little Owl School

- Ratio is 8:1 with a maximum capacity of 24 students.
- Classrooms are staffed with 3 qualified teachers with added floating and specialty teachers.
- Teachers must have an early childhood educational background and experience.
- Scheduling options include half-day (8:00 AM to 12:00 PM) and full-day (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM), with an option for extended care until 5:00 PM.
- Children experience continuity of care under the supervision of qualified educators employed by Little Owl.
- Tuition-based with financial support or full tuition coverage through the Little Owl Foundation and Long Beach Early Learning Hub scholarships.
- Parenting support is offered through on-site workshops and a qualified parent educator, with virtual options.
- The environment is deeply rooted in experiential, child-driven exploration. This aligns with bottom-up learning, where children process the world through sensory, emotional, and relational experiences. Teachers develop the curriculum by framing children's interests. While the learning remains grounded in exploration, it encourages higher-order thinking (analysis, evaluation, and creativity) and aligns with the California Preschool Learning Foundations developed by the CDE.