What is Transitional First Grade (T-1)?

T-1 is a step-up from Kindergarten but not quite First Grade. It provides students with the gift of time to develop skills necessary to be successful in First Grade.

Who is Considered for T-1?

Many students are bright children who have not developed the maturation necessary for success. Many are children with “summer birthdays” or “young kindergarteners.”

Students recommended for placement in T-1 are students who despite academic capability are not ready for the rigors of a traditional first grade classroom. Kindergarten teachers are very good at identifying areas of concern. Such things as:

- Non-participation in group activities
- Frustration
- Discipline problems
- Achievement below expectations
- Difficult time finishing work in a timely fashion
- Lack of fine or gross motor control
- Maturity
- Limited ability to attend to direct instruction
- Unable to complete assignments with minimal assistance
- Difficulty keeping pace with the class

These are just some of the factors in determining a T-1 placement.
Where does the T-1 student go for the next school year?

T-1 students move on to first grade. In general, students who have completed the T-1 program go on to be very successful first graders.

A Day in the T-1 Classroom

The Transitional First Grade class is structured very similarly to a full-day kindergarten. It is an academically based program that provides students with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to achieve success in subsequent years.

Students are afforded the opportunity for individualized attention and support. A full-time Instructional Aide is in the classroom to assist students, provide re-direction and reinforcement.

Students in T-1 receive academic instruction in all the major subject areas:

- **Language Arts**
  - **Fundations** - phonics-based program for recognition and correct formation of upper and lowercase letters and an understanding of letter sound associations and blending
  - Lucy Calkins **Units of Study** - daily writing program to provide a consistent opportunity to use and apply all skills and concepts learned in Fundations. The specific units of study are: Opinion, Information and Narrative Writing.
  - **Guided Reading** - Fountas & Pinnell’s Leveled Literacy Intervention Reading Program
- Extensive opportunities to develop receptive and expressive language skills
- Development of listening skills to respond appropriately to stories read aloud; identification of main characters, setting, problem/solution

**Math**
- EnVision Math by Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley
  - Recognizing, reading and writing numerals correctly
  - Understanding calendar concepts
  - Emphasis on understanding concepts of combining and separating of groups

**Science**
- Hands-on program that focuses on the primary areas of science
  - Life Science - plants and animals
  - Physical Science - matter, movement
  - Earth Science - weather, earth and sky, caring for the earth

**Social Studies**
- Families and Friends
- Holidays and special days
- Our Country
- Citizenship and Patriotic Symbols
Personal and Social Skills addressed:

- Development of organizational skills
- Opportunities to encourage active listening and following sequential, oral directions
- Develop appropriate play skills
- Refinement of fine motor skills
- Develop self-confidence and self esteem
- Develop good work habits
- Build positive peer relationships

The Transitional - First Grade teacher is Mrs. Christine Dillon. She has a master's degree in elementary education and extensive experience teaching both kindergarten and first grade. She can be reached at:

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CHECKLIST FOR T-1 CANDIDATES

Summer birthday

Awkward gross movement

  (running, climbing, walking)

Difficulty with hopping and skipping

Difficulty with cutting, pasting, coloring

Frequently loses place on work page

Difficulty following oral directions

Disorganized

Confusion with directionality

  (near-far, above-below, right-left)

Difficulty with sequencing

Distractibility

Short attention span

Restless activity

  (twisting, squirming, always up and down)

Lethargic - tires easily

Disinhibition
(impulsive, grabs for things, runs out of line, little regard for rules or regulations)

Daydreams

Exaggerated emotional responses

(cries easily, too silly, fears everything)

Insecurity

(need for constant approval, reassurance, cries easily when making mistakes)

Inconsistency of performance

Norm appropriate behavior for Kindergarten