



Our 5 to 6 Year Old Class

Our 5 to 6 Year Old Class, known as The Flamingos, is a unique part of Lupine Lane. Because families may have questions about this class and the different educational paths that may follow it, we would like to explain its purpose, curriculum, and the variety of ways children move on to elementary school.

A Developmentally Designed Program

Our 5 to 6 year old curriculum is built around the developmental needs of 5 to 6 year old children and is based on Kindergarten-level learning objectives. The curriculum intentionally challenges children academically while also nurturing their social-emotional development, executive functioning, creativity, independence, confidence, and love of learning.

Because the curriculum is specifically designed for children in this stage of development, priority enrollment is given to children who are five years old by September 1 of the school year.

Why We Don't Call It Kindergarten

Although our curriculum aligns with Kindergarten level developmental goals, we intentionally do not refer to this class as Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, Kinder Bridge, or Pre-K.

Instead, we simply call it our 5 to 6 Year Old Class because children enter the program with different educational plans for the following year. Our intention is to prepare children for long-term success in elementary school—wherever that next step may be.

Three Common Educational Pathways

Families typically enroll in our 5 to 6 Year Old Class for one of three reasons.

1. An Additional Year Before Kindergarten

Some children turn five shortly before the September 1 cutoff and are among the youngest in their age group. Their families intentionally choose to give them an additional year in a smaller early childhood environment before beginning Kindergarten.



Families may make this decision for many reasons, including allowing additional time for growth in areas such as:

- social-emotional development
- executive functioning
- confidence and independence
- cognitive development
- physical maturity

For these children, our 5 to 6 Year Old Class is not about "holding a child back." Rather, it provides a challenging Kindergarten-level curriculum while allowing children another year to mature before entering elementary school.

While some families know this is their plan from when their child was born, we generally encourage parents to wait until children are at least four years old and to consider teacher observations and developmental progress before making a final decision.

2. Entering First Grade the Following Year

Some families choose for their child to complete our 5 to 6 Year Old Class and then transition directly into First Grade.

Children who follow this path are successful because they have engaged in a robust curriculum serving the whole child, and because their families are actively engaged in supporting learning both at school and at home.

3. Remaining Open While Gathering More Information

Other families begin the year unsure which path will ultimately best serve their child. Throughout the school year, our teachers and administration provide ongoing observations, developmental assessments, and thoughtful feedback during conferences and individual conversations. This allows families to make an informed decision based on the child's overall development rather than solely on age or birth date.

Children Who Miss the September 1 Cutoff

After priority enrollment for children who are five by September 1 has been completed, we occasionally have remaining spaces.



If openings are available, we consider children who do not meet the age cutoff but demonstrate developmental readiness for the pace and expectations of the class. Because the curriculum moves quickly from the beginning of the year, placement decisions are made carefully to ensure the class is truly the best fit for each child.

Some years, however, the class fills completely with children who meet the September 1 age requirement, and no additional placements are available.

Our Philosophy

Every child develops along a unique timeline, and there is no single path that is right for every family.

Our goal is not to recommend one educational pathway over another. Instead, we seek to provide families with thoughtful observations, professional guidance, and objective information so they can make the decision that best supports their child.

Over the years, we have seen children thrive after entering either Kindergarten or First Grade following our 5 to 6 Year Old Class. In our experience, the greatest predictor of success is not which path is chosen, but that families make a well-informed decision, move forward with confidence, and partner with their child's school to support continued growth.

We're Here to Help

Choosing the next educational step is an important family decision, and we recognize that every child is unique.

At Lupine Lane, we are committed to supporting families throughout that process by providing honest observations, developmental insight, and years of experience working with children at this stage of development.

If you have questions about whether our 5 to 6 Year Old Class is the right fit for your child, we encourage you to contact us.