Jumpstart is a national early education organization that is fueled by the core belief that providing high-quality educational opportunities to all young children contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty. With more than six million children across the country living in poverty, the need for Jumpstart’s evidence-based program is at an all-time high.

Jumpstart recruits and trains adult volunteers, college students, and community members who implement the Jumpstart program in preschools across the country where the need is highest. Our volunteers, known as Corps members, help prepare children for kindergarten, and set them on a path for lifelong success.

**OUR CURRICULUM**

The Jumpstart program features a curriculum that is designed to focus specifically on building three domains and skills that research shows are critical in supporting children’s language, literacy, and social-emotional development:

1. Oral language (vocabulary, comprehension)
2. Book and print knowledge (alphabet knowledge, meaning and use of print)
3. Phonological awareness (rhyme awareness, phonemic awareness)

The curriculum provides a balance of child-initiated and adult-guided learning opportunities.

At the core of Jumpstart session plans is a set of 20 children’s books, carefully selected based on their connection to Jumpstart’s curriculum themes, the richness of the narrative, the ability to support vocabulary and comprehension, and their appeal to children. Each story serves as inspiration for the week’s learning activities.

To maximize our impact and demonstrate true leadership in the field, we review our curriculum regularly and make adjustments to reflect the latest research and best practice. In a recent revision to the curriculum, Jumpstart has deepened its attention to the skills of vocabulary and comprehension, while also incorporating social-emotional language skills that allow children to better understand, identify, and talk about emotions in others and themselves. This emphasis enriches children’s oral language experiences and provides a basis for future social-emotional competence and academic success.
HOW IT WORKS

Teams of Jumpstart Corps members volunteer in a variety of preschool settings in low-income communities such as Head Start programs, community-based classrooms, and public school Pre-K. Corps members typically commit to serving 200 or more hours over the course of the school year and engage children for a minimum of two hours, twice a week. Corps members receive up to 60 hours of high-quality training before and during their service on early childhood education research and best practice, citizenship and leadership, and the implementation of Jumpstart’s curriculum.

WHY JUMPSTART?

Our Corps members reduce the student to teacher ratio to 3:1 in every Jumpstart classroom, allowing children to receive an individualized learning experience and develop nurturing relationships with caring adults. Through the Jumpstart program, we not only help ensure kindergarten readiness for over 11,000 children each year, but also provide our Corps members with the essential training, skills, and practical experience they need for their future careers. Many Corps members choose to pursue a career in teaching after Jumpstart, allowing us to bring more experienced, passionate, and high-quality teachers into the field.

OUR IMPACT

In addition to keeping apprised of the latest research and participating in numerous studies by independent researchers, organizations, and universities around the country, Jumpstart embeds evaluation into our work every day. We document children’s progress towards kindergarten readiness throughout their participation in Jumpstart, and we use this data to continuously improve our program and ensure high quality. On average, 90% of Jumpstart children make gains in the language and literacy skills determined to be predictors of kindergarten readiness and school success.

To learn more about our program, visit jstart.org.