

About Jumpstart

Jumpstart recruits and trains achievement-oriented adults to deliver an innovative early education program via yearlong one-to-one relationships. Jumpstart Corps members are paired with preschool children from low-income backgrounds in the classroom setting and work together on language, literacy, social, and initiative skills for one year.

Through this relationship, Jumpstart inspires children to learn, adults to teach, families to get involved and communities to progress together. Jumpstart is working toward the day every child in America enters school prepared to succeed.

Founded

1993 at Yale University

National Headquarters

Boston, Massachusetts

Web Site

www.jstart.org

Site Locations

Jumpstart pairs nearly 4,000 trained adults one-to-one with preschool children in need of assistance. During the 2008-2009 program year, Jumpstart is serving nearly 15,000 children across 20 states and the District of Columbia, in partnership with more than 300 early learning centers and 74 universities and colleges throughout the country. Jumpstart supports its sites through offices in five regions: Central, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, South, and West.

Growth

Jumpstart has grown consistently, averaging more than 20% annual growth in children served since 2002, tripling the number of children reached each year; such consistent and aggressive growth means Jumpstart Corps members now serve to increase the number of adults working with low-income 4-year olds by more than 5% across the entire country.

Proven Results

Jumpstart assesses each child twice a year using its *School Success Checklist*, a 15-item assessment of language and literacy, social, and initiative skills. This strong pre- and post-assessment process allows Jumpstart to track a child's progress, measure program impact, and improve content and delivery.

Jumpstart helps prepare children for future school success. Jumpstart children begin the school year with skills rated similar to or lower than their peers but make statistically significant greater progress in early language, literacy, social and initiative skill areas by the end of the program year. During the 2006-2007 school year, Jumpstart children improved their school readiness skills by 28%.

National Service

Jumpstart began its relationship with the Corporation for National and Community Service in 1995 and is now one of the nation's largest part-time AmeriCorps programs.

National Sponsors

American Eagle Outfitters, AmeriCorps, Pearson, Sodexo and Starbucks

Program Overview

Jumpstart offers a unique, results-driven, and research-based supplemental program to enhance the educational opportunities for students at Head Start and other early learning programs serving low-income children.

Jumpstart's program model draws on research and best practices in early childhood education, including materials and resources from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, and the Stony Brook Reading and Language Project's dialogic reading method.

Program Model	During the school year, Corps members serve 8-10 hours each week participating in twice-weekly, two-hour Jumpstart Sessions. The Jumpstart Session is a structured time set aside at a preschool when teams of Corps members devote one-to-one support in the areas of language, literacy, social, and initiative skills to children. Each Corps member spends additional time in his partner child's classroom, thereby improving the adult-to-child ratio and lending extra support to the teacher and other students.
Core Program Goals	Jumpstart's early childhood educational goal is to enhance the literacy, language, social and emotional development of young children by capitalizing on positive Corps member-child and Corps member-family interactions. Jumpstart's approach focuses on three program areas – School Success, Future Teachers, and Family Involvement.
<i>School Success</i>	Jumpstart's curriculum fosters early literacy and language skills and promotes social and emotional development in young children. Children recognize and produce rhymes, show signs of beginning reading and writing, understand what books are and how books work, engage in problem solving, know how to make and express choices, interact constructively with familiar adults and children, and understand and express feelings appropriately.
<i>Future Teachers</i>	Jumpstart provides training and hands-on experiences that enable Corps members to become early childhood educators and leaders in education. Corps members acquire a working knowledge of child growth and development, classroom management, and family dynamics; learn effective ways to interact with children to encourage language, communication, and problem solving skills; and understand major research and trends in the field of early childhood education.
<i>Family Involvement</i>	Jumpstart focuses on three areas of family involvement: building strong relationships, ongoing and consistent communication, and the Jumpstart-home learning connection. Jumpstart provides learning activities for the home, thereby reinforcing the learning that takes place during Jumpstart sessions. Jumpstart also updates families on their child's progress in language, literacy, social and initiative skill development so that these skills can be incorporated into the family routine.
Corps Members	<p>Jumpstart engages college students, called Corps members, who commit to a school year term of service. These students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are 18-23 year-olds with interest in children, education, and community service. • Come from diverse backgrounds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 26 percent are African American. ▪ 15 percent are Hispanic or Latino. ▪ 11 percent are Asian. • Study diverse majors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25 percent major in human services (psychology, nursing, social work, or sociology). ▪ 11 percent major in science. ▪ 10 percent major in business. ▪ 10 percent major in education, not including early education.
Community Corps Members	Since 2004, Jumpstart has engaged a highly underutilized population: older Americans. Through this pilot, volunteers age 55 and up deliver the same Jumpstart program as our college student Corps members.