

JA Our Families®

JA Our Families introduces students to entrepreneurship and learning objectives for first-grade social studies, including families, neighborhoods, money, and needs and wants. Through hands-on classroom activities, the students explore the ways in which businesses provide goods, services, and jobs for families.

Following participation in the program, students will be able to:

- Describe the similarities and differences found in families.
- Begin to understand that families must earn money to pay for the things they need and want.
- Recognize the importance of entrepreneurial businesses to the neighborhood.
- Identify the goods and services provided by local businesses.
- Explain one of the entrepreneurial characteristics: Satisfy a Need or a Want.



Session Titles and Summaries:

1

Session One: All Kinds of Families

Students discover how families are alike and different and how they can work together to create a strong economy for the neighborhood.

2

Session Two: Money for Needs and Wants

Students become aware that all families need food, clothing, and shelter to live and must earn money to pay for these needs.

3

Session Three: Businesses All Around the Neighborhood

Students learn how the needs and wants of people in a neighborhood create an opportunity for entrepreneurs to start businesses.

4

Session Four: Jobs All Around the Neighborhood

Students learn that entrepreneurs create businesses, which provide jobs for families and make the neighborhood where they live better.

5

Session Five: A New Business

Students think like entrepreneurs and help advertise a new business needed in the neighborhood.



JA Our Families®

This program focuses on the roles people play in their local economy and shows children the importance of work and the skills that are required to get—or earn—what they need and want. Selected materials from the program are featured below.

Join Junior Achievement’s national network of more than 237,000 volunteers and help students in your community connect the dots between what they learn in school and the “business of life” — work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

JA’s Turn-Key Volunteer Solution:

Personalized Placement

JA works with you to ensure you teach at the location and grade level of your choice.

Comprehensive Training

JA staff provides training and access to online resources so you are comfortable visiting the classroom. You will be trained in classroom management, understanding and delivering the JA curriculum, working with the classroom teacher, and communicating effectively with students.

Minimal Time Commitment

The time commitment is minimal compared to the significant impact you make. This elementary grade-level program includes five 30-minute sessions.

JA provides you with a kit containing all of the session plans and student materials you’ll need to make every minute count.

JA Staff Follow-Up and Support

JA staff is available to answer your questions or make suggestions about your volunteer assignment.



- 1 Guide for Volunteers and Teachers**
Provides session plans, teaching tips, and talking points.
- 2 Certificate of Achievement**
Given to students in recognition of their participation.
- 3 Junior Journal**
An activities flier used throughout the sessions.
- 4 Needs and Wants Picture Cards**
Help students determine different needs and wants items; also available as a digital asset.
- 5 Floor Map and Toy Car**
An engaging way to learn about map symbols and to highlight neighborhood businesses.
- 6 Business Map and Map Symbol Stickers**
Students decide on where to place businesses.
- 7 Picture Book**
A storybook that includes colorful stickers.
- 8 Illustrated Vocabulary Flash Cards**
Help students learn the program’s vocabulary; also available as a digital asset.
- 9 Job Cards**
Students play a guessing game to learn more about different types of jobs; also available as a digital asset.
- 10 JA Our Families Neighborhood Poster**
A lively visual aid to show how people live and work in a neighborhood; also available as a digital asset.