JA Our Families®

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

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.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

Following participation in the learning experience, 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.

JA’S TURNKEY VOLUNTEER SOLUTION

Join Junior Achievement’s national network of 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.

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 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 investment you make. This elementary grade-level learning experience includes five 45-minute sessions.

Need more flexibility? JA learning experiences have options for remote live and recorded sessions, and flexible in-class implementation options. Work with your JA staff to determine the best solution for you and your educator.

JA provides you with 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.
CURRICULUM OUTLINE

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.

The learning experience 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 learning experience are featured below.