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Jumpstart at UMass Boston

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Jumpstart is a national early education organization that recruits and trains college students to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods. Our proven curriculum helps children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for kindergarten, setting them on a path to close the achievement gap before it is too late.

**Summary**

- The Jumpstart Curriculum builds the key language and literacy skills children need to be ready for kindergarten. Children participate in 20 weeks of sessions, twice per week, targeted to build language, literacy, and social emotional skills. Session plans are organized in six unit themes -- Family, Friends, Wind and Water, The World of Color, Shadows and Reflections, and Things That Grow.

- Observe Classrooms and Give Feedback. Jumpstart’s staff members provide 40+ hours of training and observe classroom teaching throughout the year to ensure quality and effectiveness.

- Focus on Results. Jumpstart’s methods are driven by significant and consistent school readiness gains among the children we serve.

**Goals and Objectives**

- Strengthen the language & literacy skills of preschoolers from low-income communities.
- Support preschool’s social-emotional development.
- Train and cultivate future teachers and leaders at UMass Boston.

**Approaches and Methods**

**Results/Impact**

**IMPACT ON CORPS MEMBERS**

- 99% of Corps Member are satisfied with their Jumpstart experience.
- 96% of Corps Members report Jumpstart has helped to build leadership skills.
- 84% of Corps Members report Jumpstart helped be more connected to the Dorchester community.
- 22% of Corps Members changed their major to education or a related field.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**

- Seven preschool partners in Dorchester
- 200 children served
- 30,500 hours volunteered

**IMPACT ON CHILDREN**

- More than 85% of Jumpstart children make gains in language and literacy skills, a key component of school readiness.

**Next Steps**

**Get Involved**

- Jumpstart relies 100% on college students to volunteer their time to serve children and instill a life-long love of learning and literacy. There are several ways you can get involved:
  - **Corps Member @ UMass Boston**
    - Gain hands on experience & training working with preschoolers.
  - **Team Leader @ UMass Boston**
    - Build leadership skills on campus and in the community while working with preschoolers.
  - **Volunteer at Jumpstart Events**
    - Volunteer at periodic community service events throughout the year.

**Contact**

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