LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

JA Our Families®

JA IN A DAY

▶ Entrepreneurship

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

The JA in a Day model consists of five kit-based, volunteer-taught sessions that include primary and secondary objectives from the traditional learning experience. Each JA in a Day session is 30 minutes.

Concepts: business, earning, economic incentives, employment, entrepreneurship, family, fill a need, goods and services, income, job, money, needs and wants, neighborhood, scarcity, shelter, skills, spend, symbols, work

Skills: analyzing information, creative thinking, decision making, differentiating, drawing, following directions, listening and responding, making observations, map reading, math calculations, reading, recognizing and interpreting symbols, verbal communication, working in pairs

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Features of the JA in a Day Guide for Volunteers and Teachers:

- Format is redesigned for easy delivery of the JA in a Day model.
- Introduction and conclusion are specific to the JA in a Day model.
- Preparation content appears in the front of the guide instead of within each session.
- Junior Journal Extras and Extended Learning Opportunities have been removed from each session.
- Information pertaining to optional digital resources has been added.

Junior Achievement™

© 2026–2027 Junior Achievement USA

JA Our Families

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview Students:	Objectives Students will be able to:	Changes from Traditional Implementation
SESSION ONE **All Kinds of Families**	• Discover how families are alike and different and how they can work together to create a strong economy for the neighborhood.	• Begin to understand the similarities and differences among families. • Recognize the importance of businesses to a neighborhood.	• Shortened the Picture Book with stickers activity (pages 1–6 only) • Removed Summary and Review
SESSION TWO **Money for Wants and Needs**	• Become aware that all families need food, clothing, and shelter to live and must earn money to pay for these needs.	• Describe the difference between needs and wants. • Explain that families must earn money for the things they need and want.	• Removed Summary and Review
SESSION THREE **Businesses All Around the Neighborhood**	• Begin to understand that businesses provide goods and services to meet the needs and wants of families.	• Define entrepreneur, goods, and services. • Identify one or two goods or services that businesses provide.	• Removed Summary and Review
SESSION FOUR **Jobs Around the Neighborhood**	• Learn that entrepreneurs create jobs for families.	• Identify the jobs people do. • Analyze their own skills to determine ways they can support their family.	• Removed Summary and Review
SESSION FIVE **A New Business**	• Help advertise a new business needed in the neighborhood.	• Describe one of the entrepreneurial characteristics–satisfy a need or want.	• Shortened learning experience wrap-up and distribution of certificates and postcards

Note: The *JA Our Families* kit is used for both traditional and JA in a Day implementation.