

Tutoring with JUMP

Information & Application Package for New Volunteers

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JUMP Contact Information



JUNIOR UNDISCOVERED MATH PRODIGIES

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“I’m really good at JUMP math,” says a grade three student who often has difficulty focusing and organizing his work.

“Oh, that’s easy. You don’t have to help me,” says another who regularly attends Learning Centre and often has difficulty retaining concepts.

*quotes from
grade 3 JUMP students
at Queen Victoria
Public School*

Research has informed us that the group of children who are classified as “deprived” benefit from small group instruction. A teacher is not able to provide the necessary instruction and adult mentoring to give such students a “hand-up”. John Mighton’s JUMP Program is the answer to a committed teacher’s prayer.

*Theresa Koch,
Grade 7/8 Teacher,
St. Veronica Catholic
School
(now at St. Helen)*

What is JUMP?

JUMP, which stands for "Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies", is a volunteer-based tutoring organization founded in 1998 by mathematician and writer John Mighton. We recently became a registered charity.

In order to promote the advancement of education, the JUMP program provides free tutoring to children identified as having difficulty in math. Partnered with various elementary schools across Toronto, JUMP recruits and trains volunteers to tutor students in need. In particular, we aim to reach children from low-income families who couldn’t otherwise afford private tutoring.

Two years ago, JUMP had 80 tutors working at 5 local schools. Last year, we grew to more than 175 tutors at 11 inner-city schools. This year, during the 2002-2003 school year, our volunteer base expanded to include more than 250 tutors and – through the combined efforts of both our one-on-one and in-class programs – we are helping more than 1500 students at 12 schools!

What is our mission?

At JUMP, we have noticed that some kids don’t get a chance to see how brilliant they are and often end up convinced that they’re simply bad at math or even stupid. However, we believe that with even a modest amount of attention every child will flourish. We also believe — and have observed first-hand — that the students tutored in our program can excel at math, even if they are failing or have been placed in remedial classes.

Every parent and every teacher can recall episodes where a child has lost confidence in his or her abilities. Sometimes these occurrences are temporary, a natural part of maturing. Other times, however, this loss can become permanent and can have a devastating impact on a child’s entire future. Once children come to believe they are failures at math (or at anything), they start to give up hope and a downward spiral begins.

Unfortunately, in our schools, there are always children who are lost. Teachers do not have time to help individual students who are struggling. Parents may not be able to help their children with homework... perhaps they are uneducated themselves, or they struggle with English or are constantly working to make ends meet. Whatever the reason, once a child falls behind in a subject like mathematics — where each new concept builds on the last — there is little opportunity for them to ever catch up.

Each time the JUMP program has received any media coverage, we have been inundated with phone calls from concerned parents and educators across the country. The questions are the same from coast to coast: “How can I help my child?”, “How can I reach my problem students?”, “Will you help us?”

JUMP’s mission is to address the problems that lie at the heart of these questions. By showing that even children who are failing or are labeled slow learners can excel at math, we hope to dispel the long-held myths surrounding the subject. And by offering inner-city children effective help in math (and eventually reading and other subjects), we hope to break the cycle of ignorance that lies at the root of all poverty.

What's involved in being a JUMP tutor?

Our volunteer tutors come from all walks of life. The range includes actors, writers, students, teachers, business people, scientists, engineers and retirees. The children in the JUMP program respond dramatically to their volunteer tutors. Knowing their tutor will be there on an on-going basis adds a sense of permanence that is often missing from their lives. Also, many of our tutors struggled with math themselves so they can understand and empathise with their students' situation.

No formal mathematical training is required to tutor with JUMP and Math “phobics” are particularly welcome (seriously). Before you begin, we will train you in the JUMP method and teach you all the skills you'll need. Our comprehensive Tutors Manual explains everything, and breaks the concepts down into simple steps that you (and your students) cannot fail to understand.

What it takes from you is dedication, enthusiasm, a desire to help local children and a time commitment of 2-3 hours per week for at least one school year.

What different JUMP programs could I help with?

JUMP was initially designed as a one-on-one program: tutors would meet with their assigned students individually, for an hour a week, and instruct them using JUMP's customized manual. However, toward the end of the 2000-2001 school year, several teachers at one of our partner schools approached us. They had observed remarkable changes in students enrolled in JUMP and were interested in learning more. We agreed to conduct a small pilot project. Teachers would be trained in the JUMP approach and, with the support of trained tutors once a week, would teach JUMP math in their classrooms. By the end of May 2002, 10 teachers were using the JUMP approach. Encouraged by the overwhelming success of this new approach, we expanded the in-class program to include more than 50 classes in 4 schools this past year.

You can apply to be a volunteer tutor in either program. Depending on your choice, the role would involve the following:

1. After-School Tutors
Following the supplied JUMP manual, after-school tutors lead their student(s) in one-on-one tutoring sessions at their school. In addition to preparing lessons, practice questions and homework assignments, tutors should track students' progress and give lots of support and encouragement. You will be asked to provide relevant feedback to the JUMP office. The time commitment **per student** will be: 1 hour per week of private math tutoring, plus approx. ½ hour per week of preparation time
2. In-Class Tutors
Working in partnership with JUMP staff and individual teachers, these tutors provide in-class support for one morning or afternoon a week. Your help is invaluable to the success of the program and will vary quite a lot (e.g. checking work, assisting students with questions, giving loads of encouragement).

NOTE: We understand that a tutor may need to miss an occasional session. If you'll be away, it is your responsibility to notify your assigned student / school as soon as possible.

My relatives keep asking, “What happened to your son?”

*Parent of a current
JUMP student*

I was very dissatisfied with the approved math programs available and took a risk by accepting an offer to introduce this program in my class. It turned out to be a gift to me and to my students. Their confidence is bursting. They know they are good at math!

*Jean Kosloff,
Grade 3 Teacher,
Queen Victoria Public
School*

Where does the tutoring take place?

All JUMP tutoring sessions are held at our partner schools, which are located throughout the Metropolitan Toronto area. See the following table for the school locations.


Partner School	Address	Nearest Intersection
Brookview Public School	4505 Jane Street Toronto, Ontario	N. of Finch / E. of Jane
* Carleton Village Jr & Sr Public School	Osler Street Toronto, Ontario	S. of St. Clair Ave. / E. of Old Weston Road
* Essex Public School	50 Essex Street Toronto, Ontario	N. of Bloor / W. of Christie
* Lord Dufferin Jr & Sr Public School	350 Parliament Street Toronto, Ontario	S. of Gerrard / E. of Parliament
Nelson Mandela Park Jr & Sr Public School	440 Shuter Street Toronto, Ontario	N. of Queen / E. of Parliament
Ogden Public School	33 Phoebe Street Toronto, Ontario	N. of Queen / E. of Spadina
Palmerston Public School	734 Palmerston Ave Toronto, Ontario	N. of Bloor / W. of Bathurst
Parkdale Jr & Sr Public School	78 Seaforth Avenue Toronto, Ontario	N. of Queen / E. of Lansdowne
* Queen Victoria Public School	100 Close Avenue Toronto, Ontario	S. of King / E. of Jameson
Rose Avenue Public School	675 Ontario Street Toronto, Ontario	S. of Bloor / E. of Jarvis
St. Helen's Catholic School	1196 College Street Toronto, Ontario	On College / W. of Dufferin
Shoreham Public School	31 Shoreham Drive Toronto, Ontario	N. of Finch / E. of Jane

** indicates those schools with both after-school and in-class programs*

When will my tutoring session be scheduled?

JUMP sessions take place either before (8 to 9am), during (between 9am and 3pm) or after (between 3 and 5:30) school. Exact times will vary slightly depending on your assigned school, as well as your individual preferences and availability. Once we've received your application, we'll call you to work out an arrangement that suits your needs. Tutoring usually starts in the first week of October. However, we happily accept and place tutors throughout the school year.

Our students who were doing very poorly in Math now love the subject and eagerly await their next session. Their teachers often comment on the confidence the students have gained and the improvement they have shown in their daily work — all because of JUMP.

 Inez Johnson,
Principal, Carleton
Village Public School

How do I become a JUMP tutor?

1. Complete a Volunteer Tutor Application Form and send it to JUMP.
 If you didn't receive an application form with this package, please request one from our office or simply download a copy from our website www.jumptutoring.org
 (Note that reference checks and a police record check form part of our tutor selection process.)
2. Follow up, Logistics and Confirmation.
 Once we've received your application, someone from JUMP will be in touch to confirm your acceptance in the program and discuss your availability/tutoring preferences. At this time, we will also schedule a training session with you.
3. Attend a JUMP Orientation/Training session.
 During this required session, you will learn the JUMP method and receive your copy of our Tutor's Manual. We will finalize the details of your tutoring session and provide you with everything you'll need to get started.
4. Start tutoring.
 On the first day, you simply start at the beginning of the JUMP Manual. Once your student can count by 2's, 3's and 5's they're ready to begin. Remember to go step-by-step and to provide lots of positive feedback.
 Good luck!

It's a privilege to be part of this program and I am completely in accord with its philosophy and heart. I have only positive comments and thoughts about JUMP.

✍ Current JUMP Tutor

I am a teacher with very high expectations of what I require my children to achieve. All of the JUMP units are very concise, clear strategies that work well with our children no matter what learning difficulties they may have.

✍ Kathy Love, Learning Centre Teacher, Queen Victoria Public School

JUMP Contact Information

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