

Spring break is an excellent opportunity to get caught up on Jumpstart hours if you have fallen behind, or to get ahead on hours, which will ease your commitment in the next quarter.

You can earn a maximum of **14 hours** by completing a combination of activities in this packet and/or creating materials for your team such as family involvement materials over break. These completed reflections should be turned in on **Canvas**.

Please use the following guidance to count hours for activities in this packet.

- **Jumpstart Fall Quarter Reflection: 1 hour** individual planning for each question answered; description “Completed Jumpstart Fall Quarter Reflection”
- **Book Club Articles & Reflection: 1 hour** individual planning for each article read and reflected on; description “Education reading and reflection”
- **Materials Prep: 1 hour** individual planning, description, “Created Classroom book for future ICS sessions”
- **Documentary & Reflection: # of hours** (length of documentary + 30 minutes for writing the reflection) events/other service, description “Documentary and reflection related to service”

If you know of another documentary that you think would be relevant to the program, please feel free to send me an email to see if it can count.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig or Sara at  
[craig.woods@northwestern.edu](mailto:craig.woods@northwestern.edu)  
[sarapenafigueroa2026@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:sarapenafigueroa2026@u.northwestern.edu)

## Jumpstart Winter Quarter Reflection

Choose any of the reflection questions listed below and submit a response. Each response should be at least one full double-spaced, typed page in order to receive the full hour.

1. What element of session do you feel is the most difficult to implement? Why? Think of 3-5 action steps for your team that could improve the implementation of this element.
2. Reflect on your team's collaboration with teachers in your classroom. What are the teachers most helpful with? What additional support does your team have? How will you assist your team in collaborating more effectively with teachers moving forward?
3. Reflect on Reading. How do you prepare the core storybook for Read for Enjoyment? How do you prepare for a Read to Reconstruct? Are your partner children engaged during reading? How do you know? What can you do differently to make reading more meaningful for your partner children?
4. Think about your use of target and mental state vocabulary during session. What aspects of vocabulary integration is easiest for you? What is most challenging for you? What is your biggest strength in terms of vocabulary use? What could you improve on? What is one action step you can commit to in order to improve your use of vocabulary during session?
5. Reflect on your team dynamic. What are some of your team's strengths? What improvements would you like to see on your team? How can your team leader support you in a more meaningful way? Be specific!
6. If you could plan a team bonding event, what would it be and why?
7. Share a child impact story. What were your partner children like at the start of the program year? Have you noticed any positive changes since you began working with them? What is something you would like your partner children to learn before sessions end?
8. What do you like about working with preschoolers? What do you find most challenging about working with preschoolers? What supports do you need to overcome these challenges?
9. What was your favorite childhood story? What is this story about? Who was your favorite character? What is the overall message or moral of the story?
10. If you could choose one book to be a part of the Jumpstart curriculum, what would it be and why?
11. What has been your favorite session book so far? Which one have the children enjoyed most? Why do you think they enjoyed it more than others?
12. (Optional) Please share how your experience in Jumpstart has impacted you (such as the impact on your academic/career interests, understanding of the community, making new friends on campus, etc.)
13. Which training concept would you like to spend more time reviewing or learning more about?

14. What strategies have you found to be effective to engage small groups in Welcome/Reading or Center Time? What strategies do you want to implement with your group in the Winter quarter to encourage the children's growth and extend their learning?
15. What is one exciting thing that has happened with a child that you work with in session?
16. What is one goal or area of improvement that you would like focus on during your service in the next two quarters?

## **Book Club Articles & Reflection**

The following questions are designed to guide you as you write your reflections. Review any of the following articles, lectures/podcasts, or documentaries and write a brief reflection for each article you choose to read (about 1-2 double-spaced pages):

### **Choose your own article:**

\*If you know of another article that you think would be relevant to the program, please feel free to read it and answer the following questions:

1. Please give a brief summary of the article.
2. What did you like/dislike about the article?
3. What was the most inspiring or helpful idea in this article?
4. How does what you saw relate to your service with Jumpstart so far?
5. What did you learn from this article, and how can you apply it to your future work in Jumpstart? In your career/field of choice?
6. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **Raising a Truly Bilingual Child:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/well/family/raising-a-truly-bilingual-child.html> (your NU email should give you full access to the NYT!!)

Description: Because of the English-centered nature of schools and public spaces in the US, most dual language learners achieve partial fluency in one language and native fluency in the other. In response to this challenge, The New York Times released an article with guidelines for parents hoping to raise children who are truly fluent in two or more languages.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What did you like/dislike about it?
3. What was the most inspiring or helpful idea?
4. How does what you saw/read/heard relate to your service with Jumpstart so far this year?
5. What did you learn from this source, and how can you apply it to your future work in Jumpstart?
6. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **Head Start CARES: Boosting Social-Emotional Development**

<https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/head-start-cares-boosting-social-emotional-development/>

Description: This article summarizes the Head Start CARES studies that investigated strategies used to develop social-emotional skills in four year olds. Results from the study and takeaways are discussed.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What did you like/dislike about it?

3. What was the most inspiring or helpful idea?
4. How does what you saw/read/heard relate to your service with Jumpstart so far this year?
5. What did you learn from this source, and how can you apply it to your future work in Jumpstart?
6. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **Jumpstart Program Efficacy**

 Jumpstart Program Efficacy.pdf

Description: This research article investigated Jumpstart's efficacy and the program's impact on children from low-income families. The author focused on changes regarding children's literacy, agency, and social relations. This is a lengthier article so feel free to skim and focus on the introduction, discussion, and future implications.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What did you like/dislike about it?
3. How does this impact your perception of your service with Jumpstart and/or how will this practically impact your service?
4. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **Standardized Testing is Still Failing Students**

<https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/standardized-testing-still-failing-students>

Description: This article explores why standardized testing may not be the way to go when evaluating students as the one-size-fits-all model marginalizes students who don't fit. It also explores alternatives to standardized testing.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What did you like/dislike about it?
3. Briefly discuss your own experience with standardized testing.
  - a. What would be a better way of gauging a student's performance/understanding of a topic?
4. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **More Than Just a "Bad Kid" : The Stigma of Conduct Disorder**

<https://www.cornellhealthcarereview.org/post/more-than-just-a-bad-kid-the-stigma-of-conduct-disorder>

Description: This blog post discusses the problem with stigmatizing mental health conditions in the context of the school. There's a focus on Conduct Disorder and the disparities in diagnosing children of color with CD more often than white children who exhibit the same behaviors, symptoms, and markers.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material and your thoughts on it.
2. How does this article relate to your work with Jumpstart and our partner

children?

3. How could you better support a classroom of children with a variety of engagement levels and behavior styles?
4. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

### **What is free play and why should you encourage it at home?**

Description: This describes the importance of allowing children to play, explore what they would like to play with, and ways to encourage it at home.

<https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-care/what-is-free-play>

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What was the role of exploratory play in your childhood?
  - a. What memories do you have?
  - b. Was safety ever a concern?
3. What were your parents' philosophies about safety and exploration in playtime, related to how they're discussed in the articles?

### **Why are doctors prescribing play?**

Description: This article gives a brief overview of the importance of play and ways to make it effective for learning and exploration.

<https://answers.childrenshospital.org/play-children/#:~:text=In%20fact%2C%20the%20AAP%20has,even%20writing%20prescriptions%20for%20it.>

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. What was the role of play in your elementary school?
  - a. What were your favorite ways to play?
3. What do you think you learned from your playtime experiences?
4. How have you seen children learn through play in Jumpstart this year?
5. What can Corps members do to add to children's playtime experiences?
6. Is safety ever a concern during playtime at your Jumpstart center? How so?

### **6 Challenges for Early Educators as Preschool Growth Halts.pdf**

Description: This article dives into the challenges that pre-school educators face, specifically in the context of decreasing preschool enrollment after the pandemic.

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. In your opinion, what are some ways that we can support teachers?
3. What do you know about the working conditions for teachers in your preschool classroom?
  - a. What do you do to create a better working condition for them and yourself?

### **Why aren't we paying early childhood educators what they're worth?**

Description: This explores why ECE (early childhood education) teachers aren't paid enough and what could be done about it.

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-02-14-why-aren-t-we-paying-early-childhood-educators-what-they-re-worth>

1. Please give a brief summary of the material.
2. Which teachers have had the most impactful roles in your life?
  - a. What made great teachers so successful?
2. Have you ever considered becoming a teacher? Why or why not?
  - a. Was income ever a factor?
  - b. If yes, what would the salary need to be in order for you to change your mind?

### **Materials Preparation: Write a Book**

Write a fictional or non-fictional book for a partner child. Consider your child a character in your story (children love to see their own names in books). Print out or draw pictures to accompany the text of your story. Get creative! Make sure the story will be interesting to your child. Think about developing your child's vocabulary and comprehension skills.

#### **Some examples:**

- A Day with Jayden in Jumpstart
- Alana the Explorer (a play on Dora the Explorer)
- Darius and the Dinosaur (if your child likes dinosaurs)

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Construction paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Computer
- Access to color printer

#### **Instructions:**

1. Brainstorm about your partner child's interests
2. Pick a topic and write your story.
3. Cut and paste or draw pictures for your story. You can use clip art, photos from the internet, or pictures from magazines.

#### **Remember:**

- Use short words and vocabulary that your partner child will understand
- Incorporate your partner child's interests into the book
- Children love colors and pictures
- Use characters and ideas your children can relate to (e.g. making friends, sharing, trying something new)

## Documentary & Reflection

Watch one of the films listed and then answer the questions below.

1. Please give a brief summary of the film.
2. What did you like/dislike about the film?
3. What was the most inspiring or helpful idea in this film?
4. How does what you saw relate to your service with Jumpstart so far?
5. What did you learn from this film, and how can you apply it to your future work in Jumpstart? In your career/field of choice?
6. Feel free to address additional questions you feel are relevant!

Movie and documentary options include:

- Most Likely to Succeed (2015) (1 hr 29 m) – Free online at Course Reserves
  - [Course Reserves](#)
- The Road to Teach (1 hr) – Free on Roadtrip website
  - <https://roadtripnation.com/roadtrip/teach-documentary>
- First Generation (1 hr 34 m) – Free on Youtube
  - [First Generation](#)
- The Homestretch (1 hr 30 m) –Free on Youtube
  - [The Homestretch \(FULL MOVIE\)](#)
- 13th (1 hr 40 m) – Free on Youtube / Available on Netflix
  - [13TH | FULL FEATURE | Netflix](#)
- Streetwise (1 hr 31 m) – Free on Youtube
  - [Streetwise \(Seattle doc / 1984\) 1080p](#)
- Life of a King (1 hr 41 m) - Free on Tubi
  - [Life of a King](#)
- Requiem for the American Dream - Free on Tubi
  - [Requiem for the American Dream](#)