Open up the World

It only takes a little to open up a child’s world.

Children who struggle to read by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school. Limited literacy means limited opportunity for too many California students. But this is an issue we can tackle. The Jewish Coalition for Literacy offers a practical and meaningful solution, and we need your help to reach more kids and improve their futures. Please consider donating or becoming a volunteer tutor and help us make a difference.
Unleashing Potential

Imagine a society where all children can read and are inspired to reach their full potential.

We don’t just imagine. JCL actively works to give underserved public school children the opportunities they need and deserve to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning.

In partnership with individual and corporate donors and foundations, we train and support volunteer tutors and parents to engage with children’s curiosity and get them hooked on books. With your help, kids who are struggling with reading today can unlock brighter futures.

Expanding Opportunity

The ability to read fluently is essential for success in life. Yet, nearly three out of four children who complete third grade in California public schools struggle to read at grade level. Too many kids are missing out on opportunities we take for granted. Together, we can lift those children up.
Words Matter

“Please never go away! You are the difference-makers at John Gill.”
Josh Griffith, Principal
John Gill Elementary School, Redwood City

“JCL tutors have made a significant impact on our students not only academically but also socially. Tutors go above and beyond to motivate and inspire students.”
Christina Bowman, Principal
El Monte Elementary School, Concord

“The JCL program is about more than just reading. A good reader is a confident student. JCL tutors are caring, consistent adult listeners for students, helping to build that confidence and supporting the whole child, beyond just test results.”
Stacy Joe, 3rd Grade Teacher
Tenderloin Community School, San Francisco

“My student made amazing progress from not knowing English words to reading books without assistance.”
Beverly A., JCL Tutor
Oakland
A Solid Foundation

Volunteer tutors are the backbone of our organization. We provide structured training and then place our tutors one-on-one or with small groups of children in grades K–3 for read-aloud sessions. The children gain confidence, their language skills blossom, and they increase their reading fluency and desire to learn.

Our volunteer tutors share the magic of reading and give children who might otherwise be left behind, a chance at a better future—all in as little as an hour per week.

“Our world is not working the way it was meant to. Our task and our privilege is to help repair it.”

- Leonard Fein, JCL Founder
Contact
The Bay Area Jewish Coalition for Literacy operates in three regions: San Francisco, East Bay and Peninsula.

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