

KUMON FAQ

Middletown and Oakhurst Kumon Centers

Director: Mrs. Li-Hwa Lee M. A.

Tel: 732-706-2777 (Middletown)

732-517- 0777 (Oakhurst)

What is Kumon?

- Kumon is an after-school math and reading program.

When was Kumon founded?

- High school math teacher, Toru Kumon, founded Kumon in 1958 in Osaka, Japan.

What is the Kumon method?

- The Kumon Method represents the curriculum and the instruction method of the program. The curriculum is designed to help a child gradually develop the fundamental math and reading skills needed to master high school level math, language arts and reading comprehension.
- The curriculum consists of hundreds of short assignments organized into a naturally coherent, logical progression which allows students to advance at their own pace rather than by age or grade level.

What is the Kumon method?

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- The Kumon Method strongly believes a student must fully master each concept before learning a new one. Every assignment is timed and graded. Students must achieve close to 100 percent accuracy within a set time period before progressing to the next level.
- Through this repeated practice, students master each skill before moving on to the next. Each new concept builds on the foundation established by the previous one, and new exercises constantly review and strengthen the previously learned skills.

Does Kumon cover subjects other than math and reading?

- The Kumon curriculum only covers math and reading. However, the method is designed to help students increase confidence, improve concentration and develop better study skills through daily practice and mastery of the materials.

How do you determine where a child starts in the Kumon curriculum?

- A student begins the program with a placement test to determine a starting level in the Kumon curriculum. Since children absorb knowledge at different rates, the starting level is not based on a child's age or grade, but on individual ability. The starting point is set at a level where the assignments can be easily completed. This was students' experience success right from the start and has a positive first reaction to the program. This comfortable starting point helps students build confidence, develop concentration and establish a daily study routine.

Why are students required to achieve 100% accuracy on each assignment within a set time?

- Students must achieve close to 100 percent accuracy on each assignment within a set time period before progressing to the next level to demonstrate comprehension and mastery of the concepts. Through this repeated practice, students master each skill before moving on to the next. Each new concept builds on the foundation established by the previous one, and new exercises constantly review and strengthen the previously learned skills.

How often does a child attend Kumon?

- Students go to Kumon Center once or twice a week for approximately 30 minutes per subject and complete short daily assignments (10-20 minutes per subject) on the other days of the week. The instructor evaluates each child's progress weekly to ensure growth and that academic goals are being met.

Why do Kumon students have daily assignments?

- Similar to mastering a sport or musical instrument, daily practice in academics is needed to ensure success. Kumon students complete assignments to build solid study habits and maintain their skills.

How is Kumon different than other supplemental education programs?

- Kumon is different in many ways but primarily it is not a quick-fix program. In addition, Kumon does not use a traditional classroom lecture style or a one-on-one tutoring method. Instead, the worksheets apply a “learn-by-doing” principle that motivates students to become independent learners. The Kumon Instructor provides guidance, praise and assistance when needed, however, Kumon encourages students to think for themselves. The goal of the program is to develop a student’s confidence so that they will first try to solve a problem on their own before asking for help.

Why do parents enroll their child to Kumon?

- Parents enroll their children in Kumon for many reasons ranging from remedial to enrichment purposes. Kumon supplements the school curriculum, helping to enhance a child's existing skill level, prevent academic difficulties in the future and advance beyond grade level. Kumon helps children develop strong math and reading skills, while building essential life skills such as study habits, concentration and confidence.

What are the qualifications of a Kumon Instructor?

- Kumon Instructors are carefully interviewed and screened, and must pass rigorous math and reading exams before qualifying for the Kumon training program. Potential candidates must complete intensive training in the Kumon curriculum, center operations and pass additional exams before qualifying to open a Kumon Center. Kumon takes great pride in their instructors and continually evaluates their performance. Instructors also participate in continuing education seminars throughout the year.

How much does Kumon cost?

- Monthly tuition is \$120 for Math, \$120 for Reading and \$210 for both subjects per student. There is also an initial, one-time registration fee of \$50. Kumon will conduct the child's placement test free of charge.

Does Kumon offer preparation courses for exams like the SATS?

- Kumon is not a test-prep program, however through daily timed assignments, students become thoroughly accustomed to working under test-taking conditions and develop key time-management and problem-solving skills.

What are your center hours?

Middletown:

Monday and Thursday: 3:30 –7:00 pm

Saturday: 12:00 pm-3:00 pm, closed in summer.

Oakhurst:

Tuesday and Friday: 3:30 –7:00 pm