



HIPPYUSA
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters



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FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON CONGRATULATES MARVIN SCHWARTZ, NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIPPY USA

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Photo of then Governor Bill Clinton and HIPPY participants during the program's early days in Arkansas.

A Love of Learning Begins at Home

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a parent involvement, school readiness program that helps parents prepare their three, four, and five year old children for success in school and beyond.

HIPPY helps parents empower themselves as their children's first teacher by giving them the tools, skills and confidence they need to work with their children in the home. The program was designed to bring families, organizations and communities together and remove any barriers to participation that may include limited financial resources or lack of education.

Join us on 

HIPPY USA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



April 11-14, 2010

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IN THE NEWS

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Shonyell Johnson, Coordinator with the R'Club Child Care, Inc. HIPPY Program in St. Petersburg, Florida (formerly the Pinellas County HIPPY Program), sent in the information below about the Wells family...

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Curriculum Updates in Progress

A new year brings a new beginning to the HIPPY curriculum. I would like to tell you about some of the planned changes and where we are in revising the Age 4 Curriculum...

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HIPPY Alumni are Young Leaders

What better tribute to Avima's legacy

Marvin's Message

A weekly email update from the HIPPY USA National Executive Director

Updates for March 19, 2010

With an event the size of the HIPPY National Conference rapidly approaching, daily activities seem to fall into one of two categories: 1) conference planning and logistics, and 2) everything else. And somehow, the numerous program support and administrative activities that fill each day continue to get completed. I am quite impressed by the capacity of your National Office staff to simultaneously respond to these two challenges.

Despite the growing list of conference preparation activities posted in recent weekly messages, there are program site visits to complete, curriculum revision decisions to be made, political advocacy developments and key planning issues to address. None of these involvements are being placed on hold.

It's a remarkable study in multi-tasking and setting priorities. Ask the juggler who has five balls in the air which one has his most immediate attention, he'll tell you, "the one that's just about to fall."

So conference deadlines are demanding our greatest attention at this time. And here's another reminder to all HIPPY staff who live with the daily drama of last-minute responses:

Get your reservation completed ASAP. Conference deadlines have been extended for:

- Conference hotel reservations (with room discounts)
- Conference T-shirt orders
- Cultural outing (Pharaoh Exhibit at the Arkansas Arts Center)

than the achievements of the children in which her work had a direct impact - with visible results!

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We don't you to miss out on any detail of the great program that will be offered!

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March 5, 2010

March 12, 2010

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HIPPY Photo Highlight



With the conference less than a month away, we thought it appropriate to share photos from the 2008 National Conference - just to remind you of all the great things that will be happening at the 2010 conference.

During the Home Visitor Rally, "OPRAH" was elected president! The Home Visitors shared their "election results" with the participants during the Tuesday luncheon at the 2008 conference – what a fantastic group!

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National Conference

- U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin will make her first Arkansas appearance as keynote speaker at the Avima Lombard Gala on Sunday, April 11. Her participation has already generated considerable attention, and state leaders in health, government, and other areas will likely attend the event to meet her. Dr. Benjamin will be introduced by Dr. Joycelyn Elders, a former U.S. Surgeon General.
- The conference theme of "HIPPY: The Bridge to Change for Children, Families and Communities!" will be featured throughout the 4-day program. From one perspective, the theme reflects how HIPPY starts its work with families where they are, helps them travel a path to development and growth, and leaves them on the other side ready to pursue a positive future.
- To date, conference registration has surpassed 350 persons, with more expected. Registration for the Cultural Outing to the Pharaoh Exhibit: 23 persons and counting. The Mosaic Templar's cultural excursion did not generate adequate participation and has been dropped. However, admission to this cultural center is free (and HIPPY USA encourages you to visit), as the \$10 outing price was to cover transportation. Refunds will be given to those previously signed up to visit the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.
- A new Tuesday outing has become available to conference participants. The North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours," an event designed to cultivate relationships while enjoying great food, fun, and entertainment, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Dickey-Stephens Ball Park, home of the Arkansas Travelers Baseball Team. **HIPPY USA is a partner with this event and the \$10 admission includes beer, wine, soft drinks, and wonderful appetizers prepared by area restaurants.** Participants can enjoy the short walk over or the \$1 trolley ride. To register, please complete this [form](#) and return to [Angela](#) by March 26.

- A special video greeting from President Clinton will be shown.
- The conference program book will be developed next week. Local businesses have donated services and discounts for color covers and printing. Activity is proceeding on the creation of the conference badge holders and bags.
- Judges for the HIPPY Photo Contest have reviewed all submissions. Their selection of the winner is due soon.
- A photo-panel exhibit on Avima Lombard is being created for display at the event.

National Office

- Have you visited the new HIPPY USA Web Site? We've reorganized the pages and data location to make information easier to find. We've introduced an attractive graphic format. And we've embedded an increasing number of videos and voices to add a personal touch to our essential message of how HIPPY helps families. It's a work-in-progress, with some sections still under construction. But we're interested in your impressions and advice so far.
- As part of an annual review, the HIPPY USA Strategic Plan is being analyzed to maintain alignment with field developments, resource allocation, and capacity. One of the largest issues to be explored is the concept of decentralization - how the national office can best utilize the expertise in the field in response to issues such as training, research, and evaluation. HIPPY has a unique opportunity and challenge to balance the resources of a small, capable national staff with a large field of state operational expertise.
- I will lead a workshop at the IMPACT Conference in Little Rock this Saturday. The conference is for college students from around the nation who are interested in social justice issues. The presentation, titled "How Early Childhood Education Leads To Community Development," will identify how HIPPY programs motivate parents to become more involved in their communities and how AmeriCorps supports those efforts.
- Conference programs and slide shows on various topics are available through the National Office. Give us a call if you would like materials or assistance in developing a HIPPY program community presentation. We can provide photos, logos, and lots of help with creative design.

MIS

- Committee members are reviewing the final questions for two companies chosen as finalist bidders for the new MIS. The questions will be sent to the finalists this week.

Please continue to let me know how the national office can continue to support your work.

Until next week...

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