



HIPPY times

HIPPY: Planting the Seeds of Success!

From The Board Chair

Penny Pensak

Lady Bird Johnson, former US First Lady, said "Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

While I doubt that Lady Bird Johnson and Avima Lombard knew each other, I am struck by the similarity between this quote and fundamental HIPPY beliefs. Our HIPPY home visitors role model this concept for parents: home visitors expect that HIPPY parents will live up to what is believed of them, which empowers HIPPY parents to do the same with their children. The result is instilling a love of learning in children, and ensuring that they start school ready to succeed.

Each fall, we begin our HIPPY year with a renewed sense of optimism and purpose. The work that you do deserves to be supported by a strong vibrant national office, and a committed national board. We, as a national board, share your commitment to the HIPPY program, and pledge to work with our national staff to build a structure that will indeed be the driving force behind the HIPPY program.

I remain in awe of the efforts that you put in on behalf of children and families. I can see in my own community the difference you are making- in both the short and long term. The return of the investment of your time and dedication is immeasurable. From the bottom of our hearts, our deepest thanks.

Please feel free to contact me – with questions, concerns, or heartwarming stories. Have a wonderful year! Can't wait to hear all about it!

Penny (pnpensak@gmail.com)

2010 Preservice Update

M. Gayle Hart

After 4 ½ jam packed days, the newest crop of HIPPYs "graduated" on August 13, 2010! This amazing group included 18 coordinators, four assistant coordinators, three lead home visitors, one state office staff, three national office staff, one state contact, and one administrative assistant. Also, nine administrators were present, which truly speaks to the represented agencies' commitment to excellence through HIPPY!!!

Thanks to the Arkansas state office, a true highlight of the week occurred when Preservice attendees were able to better understand the real challenges and true joys of HIPPY through a session with a panel of Arkansas HIPPY parents, home visitors, and coordinators!

The training team (Gail Jones, Mary Lindsey, Joyce Westrich, and Gayle Hart) enjoyed working with the highly interactive, creative, and enthusiastic group of 40 trainees. But, without a doubt, the trainers were exhilarated by the Thursday evening entertainment delivered by the clever, and sometimes hilarious, trainees!

Amid tears, laughter and HIPPY Hugs, the graduates said fond good-byes. When asked what sessions were most helpful, one participant stated "I learned new things, got great ideas, and saw what my program was doing right."

Preservice is a required training for all new coordinators and assistant coordinators. We also encourage program supervisors from HIPPY implementing agencies to attend for the first two days. Attendance by administrators provides a unique opportunity to obtain relevant information regarding the HIPPY program model, its philosophical underpinnings and specific administrative requirements.

Participants from HIPPY USA's 2010 Preservice Training are shown below. The week-long training, held each August in Little Rock, AR, included lectures, group activities, and role playing.



HIPPY USA Web Site *Updated*

With the new program year beginning, HUSA encourages coordinators and home visitors to take advantage of the secure blogs that are now available by logging into the HUSA web site. Please contact Angela by calling 501.537.7739 or emailing ajones@hippyusa.org for login information.

The web site has been updated to include a more user friendly library and lots of resources – recruitment flyers, grant opportunities, sample newsletters, etc. Take a look and let us know what you think! If you need assistance with customization, please contact Teri at 501.537.7728 or ttodd@hippyusa.org.

Our home page now includes video links – with more to be posted in the coming weeks. Check them out! Or, send us video links to your program activities. We'd love to post them!

HIPPY USA is currently updating the documents on the web site with current information and a consistent look. These updates continue and will be completed sometime this fall.

For questions or more information about the HIPPY USA web site, log in information, or to submit photos, ideas, or suggestions, please contact the national office at 501.537.7726 or email info@hippyusa.org.



Shown above are images of the new sample recruitment flyers and newsletters available in the library section of the HIPPY USA web site.



Meet Our New Office Manager

HUSA's new office manager, Brad Caviness, officially joined HIPPY USA on July 26! As part of his job responsibilities, he will be also serve as Liaison to the National Board of Trustees.

Having previously worked for Heifer International Foundation and Timex, Inc., Brad has a solid background in administrative and organizational support.

Please join HIPPY USA in welcoming Brad! His contact information is: bcaviness@hippyusa.org or 501.537.7726.

We're excited to have him in the HIPPY family!



Don't Keep It A Secret!

Share the successes that are happening with your programs!

HIPPY USA wants to hear the good news – so that we can share it with your colleagues in the field and our supporters!

Feel free to give us a call or send us an email with the details (and photos, if available). Email us at info@hippyusa.org or call 501.537.7739.

HRSA Funding Update

In June, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) started a process for states to develop comprehensive home visiting needs assessments and plans. HIPPY USA has been contacting HIPPY programs throughout the country to let them know about this federal home visiting effort and assist them in coordinating with the state agencies administering the program, as well as providing contact information to network with other home visiting coalitions within their area.

Melissa Kelley, state director of Colorado HIPPY, has been very active helping to educate us about this issue and the process. For slides from her webinar presented to the field, or to view a sample letter to send to your state agency, please log on to the library at the HIPPY USA web site. (Contact Angela at the national office if you've forgotten the login and password – 501.537.7739 or ajones@hippyusa.org) For more information or additional help, email the national office at info@hippyusa.org.

AmeriCorps Update



Thanks to the fabulous HIPPYCorps sites in California, Florida and Hawaii, the fifteenth year of the HIPPY USA AmeriCorps grant finished with a flourish! First, we take pride in the potential for the children of the 942 families who received top notch services through 46 members! But, we're also greatly encouraged by the impact on parents. Evaluation conducted by the University of South Florida (on behalf of HIPPY USA) documented noteworthy outcomes with first year HIPPY parents – 98.6% acquired skills needed to help children learn new things, and 97.8% have learned to extend learning to daily activities!

Equally spectacular is the impact on the communities where members participated in activities ranging from food distribution (El Centro, CA) and Christmas gift wrapping (Lawndale, CA) to a "GO GREEN" ecological event (HI) during AmeriCorps Week. Additionally, 496 parents volunteered for a wide range of institutions within their communities. In Florida alone, parents logged more than 4,441 volunteer hours!!!

A special shout of congratulations goes to Kona, Hawaii for their success in obtaining an AmeriCorps grant through their state commission. The state commission was so impressed by them, that they re-opened the application process!

AmeriCorps members help HIPPY programs strengthen community service and recruit additional families. With AmeriCorps, HIPPY Programs give their home visiting staff a tangible benefit and incentive to continue their education. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov.

Professional Development Meeting

HIPPY USA National Trainers

Fifteen National HIPPY Trainers converged on Little Rock to join three national office staff at a Professional Development Meeting, September 30th through October 1st. This annual meeting is the opportunity for trainers to share cutting edge training techniques and obtain in-depth knowledge about national projects, as well as further hone their training skills.

This year's meeting had a major double focus. Thanks to a local partnership with a state literacy council, the trainers had use of a state-of-the-art computer lab for a hands-on review of the new ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) web-based data collection and reporting system. This session increased the trainer's familiarity with ETO and will enhance their ability to be one component of a dynamic, multi-layered ETO training strategy!

Participation in a session dedicated to the new HIPPY Model Manual provided the trainers with the opportunity to add refinements to this ground breaking document. Trainers will utilize the manual to engage programs in a comprehensive program assessment and accreditation process beginning with the 2010-2011 HIPPY program year. The new process will replace the old system, where programs achieved the *Stellar* designation for exemplary programming through the SAVI, and later, the SAFE assessment tools.

The dedication of the cadre of trainers continues to be a tremendous asset to the HIPPY network.

Congratulations

To the following trainers
in celebration of
their commitment!

Gwen Welch – 10th Anniversary
Carla Weir – 20th Anniversary



HIPPY USA ETO SOFTWARE® *Update*

ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) Software® is our new web-based performance management solution that will give HIPPY USA a clearer picture of which efforts are having the greatest impact on early literacy and family involvement outcomes. With this knowledge, HIPPY USA can reinforce what's working, adjust what isn't, and more easily report successes to key stakeholders!

Having a positive, proven impact that is recognized nationally requires more than hard work and good intentions – it calls for a strategic approach that connects our mission to the daily work of the home visitors and the expectations of our funders and supporters. ETO Software® transforms data into knowledge that can be used to access a multitude of easily generated reports that monitor, measure, and optimize program impact.

The ETO Software® reporting capabilities will provide fast, secure access to information, empowering programs to:

- Identify program components that are most effective at achieving desired outcomes
- Identify and track key trends
- Monitor participant attendance
- Manage and analyze participant demographic data
- Analyze assessment results
- Manage referrals
- Maintain a comprehensive history of participant information
- Address multi-funder reporting obligations

The HIPPY USA ETO Software® is currently under construction, and it will be available to our pilot sites in November. We plan to have the software available to all our programs in late February/early March. *Please continue to use MIS paper forms for all 2010-11 program year data collection.*

Look for more updates in the coming weeks. And, feel free to contact the national office (501.537.7726 or info@hippyusa.org) should you have questions or need more information about our new system.

Shop The HIPPY Store!

The HIPPY Store is on a quest to find more items that our programs can utilize for recruitment, gifts, marketing, etc. Please contact Brad Caviness by calling 501.537.7726 or emailing bcaviness@hippyusa.org, and let him know what you'd like to see in the HIPPY Store!

Several items available for purchase are shown below. They can also be found on our web site at www.hippyusa.org. Click on the **Support Us** link at the top of the page – and the **HIPPY Store** link is located on the left hand side of the page.

For more information about the HIPPY Store or to share your ideas, please contact the national office at 501.537.7726.



T-shirts



Stainless Steel Travel Mugs



Ink Pens



Pencils



Tote Bags



Water Bottles



Executive Pens



Hand Sanitizer

Call today to place your order!

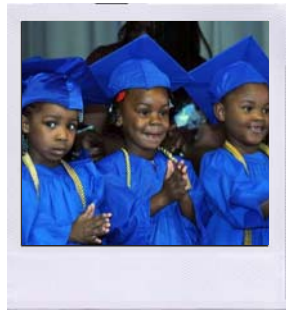
Photo Contest Continues

HIPPY Photo Contest!

Send us your pictures of children, families, and HIPPY staff at work.

We are looking for pictures to use throughout the year in HUSA publications and to include in presentations across the country. Winners will be announced in May 2010.

Submit your photos and information by emailing us at info@hippyusa.org or by mailing them to the national office (1221 Bishop Street, Little Rock, AR 72202). Be sure to include the photo permission form with all submissions.



These three HIPPY children sing a song during the 17th annual HIPPY Graduation Ceremony in the cafeteria of Daisy Lawrence School on Sunday, May 23, 2010, in Montgomery, AL.



HIPPYUSA®
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

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Mission Statement

HIPPY empowers parents as primary educators of their children in the home and fosters parent involvement in school and community life to maximize the chances of successful early school experiences.