



# HIPPYTimes

May 2011 Volume 17, Issue 2

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**2011 Preservice**

**August 7 – 12, 2011**

**Peabody Hotel  
3 Statehouse Plaza  
Little Rock, AR 72201**

Registration  
deadline is July 1.

For more information  
contact Angela Jones  
at 501.537.7739 or  
ajones@hippyusa.org.



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## Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

### Idea Exchange

M. Gayle Hart

#### Coordinators, do you want to...

- Increase your ability to be effective?
- Find solutions to common challenges?
- Add sparkle to your staff meetings?
- Develop more community partnerships?
- Create exciting end-of-the-year events?
- Increase the support of volunteers?
- Diversify your funding sources?
- Better utilize existing resources?
- Make your program more sustainable?

#### Coordinators, are you able to share...

- Suggestions for unusual and/or valuable partnerships?
- Strategies for developing and maintaining relationships with school districts?

- Unique sources for in-kind contributions?
- Exceptional resources for children and/or parents?
- Inventive concepts for summer programs to keep families engaged?
- Unusual funding streams that might be available in other communities?
- Extra-curricular activities that enhance educational objectives?
- Imaginative destinations for field trips?
- Tips for "educating" elected officials?

#### The COORDINATOR BLOG

could be your answer! So many of you around the country have added innovative elements to your programs that increase capacity and/or make your job easier! A few teasers



have been shared in the electronic highlights, but there is so much more going on within the HIPPY network. And, now it is time to share those phenomenal ideas, resources, and creativity!

Some things are just **too good to not share!** Don't assume that everyone is doing what you do, or knows what you do. If you have something to share or a question to ask, the **COORDINATOR BLOG** is at your disposal. This is a secure blog, so contact Angela Jones at 501.537.7739 or email ajones@hippyusa.org for the login information.

### From the Board Chair Penny Pensak

Doug Larson said about spring that, "Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." And I know for many of us in our HIPPY family, this has been a challenging spring. Our hearts go out to those of you who have been affected by the violent weather that struck throughout most of April. But, I have to tell you, I've just returned from the HIPPY USA board meeting, and I really do feel like whistling.

I am sure by now most of you have heard that Lia Lent has officially been named our HIPPY USA Executive Director. And that's what's making me want to whistle. For those of you who have had the opportunity to speak with or meet Lia, I am certain you have been impressed by her capacity to listen to others, her quiet confidence

and strong leadership. Lia is a woman of action: she has spent the past few months really learning about HIPPY, listening to our field, and responding. She and our strong HIPPY USA staff have been moving ahead with projects that will support the work you're doing in the field. In the months to come, I hope you will all have a chance to get to know Lia and share your comments, observations and aspirations for HIPPY with her.

It is interesting to me that the rest of the world is just waking up to what we've known for a long time: home visitation programs really work; they make a long term impact on the lives of the children and families. And because of the work that you all do, I would suggest that HIPPY does that even better than any other

home visitation program. It was an honor to all of you, and that work that you do daily, that resulted in the prestigious designation as one of the seven home visitation programs identified in the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) by the Health Resource Services Agency and the Administration for Children and Families.

So let's dump that slush out of our shoes, and start whistling. On behalf of the HIPPY USA National Board of Directors, we continue to thank you for all you do, everyday, to ensure that children are ready to start kindergarten prepared and eager to learn.

With warm wishes,  
Penny Pensak, Chair  
HIPPY USA Board of Trustees



*Lia Lent, who has served as Interim Executive Director since May 2010, officially assumed the position of HIPPY USA Executive Director on April 18, 2011.*

## From the Executive Director Lia Lent

Over the past year, as I have met with coordinators, state directors and home visitors, participated in HIPPY meetings and trainings, observed home visits and reviewed our research; I have come to appreciate more and more the strengths of the HIPPY model. Our programs not only prepare children for success in school, but also strengthen those critical bonds between parents and children.

Research shows the benefits of our model. The affects of the HIPPY program last not only a year or two, but grade

after grade, with HIPPY children demonstrating better academic outcomes than comparable children who did not participate in HIPPY. While more research will be conducted, we have very strong evidence that HIPPY is a highly successful model for helping to bridge the achievement gap.

HIPPY is well positioned for the future. We have been designated an evidenced-based program by one of the country's premier evaluation firms. We are putting in place the ETO – a powerful data management information tool,

which will allow us to measure efforts and outcomes. We are clarifying our standards documents and putting a new accreditation system in place.

During the next year, we will be revising our curriculum to enable parents to do an even better job preparing their children for success in school.

All these systems are being put in place, so that we can work towards the goal of serving more children and families with high quality programs. We look forward to partnering with you as we move forward together.

## MIECHV Update Lia Lent

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is designed to strengthen and improve programs and coordination of services for at-risk communities and to improve outcomes for those families. Each of the 50 states submitted a plan to access this federal funding. The national office contacted most of the states where HIPPY has programs and has been involved in the model developers meetings with the two federal agencies running the program – Health Resources Services Agency (HRSA) and the Administration for Children

and Families (ACF). HIPPY has also collaborated with states to prepare and implement home visiting plans under the federal MIECHV Programs.

The national office developed resources to help each of our programs take advantage of the new MIECHV Program. The national office prepared alerts, fact sheets, and other useful resources for your local program to customize and take full advantage of HIPPY's designation as a model program. The following states have requested and received implementation letters from HIPPY: Alabama,

Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. The national office will continue to work on this issue for next year's round of funding.

Watch your inbox for more information and updates from the national office.

For questions about the MIECHV Program, contact Lia Lent (501.537.7727 or [llent@hippyusa.org](mailto:llent@hippyusa.org)) or Gayle Hart (501.537.7731 or [mghart@hippyusa.org](mailto:mghart@hippyusa.org)).



## Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) Update Angela Jones

HIPPY USA's new data collection software, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) was launched to all programs on March 30. In addition to the pilot sites that began utilizing the software in January, more than one-third of HIPPY sites are entering current program year data.

Weekly web-based trainings began in early March. This included advanced training

(trainings in which all the participants are assigned tasks that are monitored through a virtual classroom), with reports training to be offered in June.

The response to ETO has been extremely positive. Of those HIPPY programs responding to a recent survey:

- 91% rate ETO as easy to use
- 91% believe ETO will be useful in managing their programs

- 65% rated the technical assistance received as excellent, and 15% rated it good
- 75% found the webinar trainings clear and easy to follow
- 70% were able to use the system after initial training.

We're off to a great start! For more information about ETO or the training sessions, contact Angela Jones, at 501.537.7739 or email [ajones@hippyusa.org](mailto:ajones@hippyusa.org).

# New Coordinator Preservice Date Set

M. Gayle Hart

Developed specifically for all new coordinators and assistant coordinators (but encouraged for coordinators and supervisors who have never attended), this week-long training provides both the foundation and fundamentals necessary to implement and maintain quality HIPPY programming.

It's also an opportunity to increase your capacity by learning more about program accreditation, the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) data collection system, as well as a

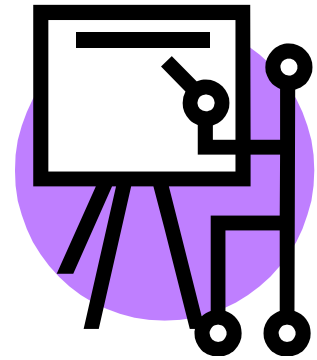
chance to network with other coordinators. This required, yet exciting, training will be held **August 7 – 12, 2011** in Little Rock, Arkansas.

All training will take place at the Peabody Hotel, located in downtown Little Rock. A relaxing "meet and greet reception" on Sunday will kick off this week of intensive training, which will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning (8/8) and continue through 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon (8/12). A group photo will be taken on

Monday afternoon, so bring your smiles!!!

Join us for this unique "learning can be fun!" session by completing and returning your registration form right away!

If you have not received the preservice documents, or if you have questions or would like more information, please contact Angela Jones at 501.537.7739 or email [ajones@hippyusa.org](mailto:ajones@hippyusa.org).



*"Both coordinators and supervisors – no matter their length of service – have enthusiastically expressed how much they learned during the week-long training!"*

– M. Gayle Hart, HIPPY USA National Program Director

## Shop the HIPPY Store Brad Caviness

The HIPPY Store has many items that can be used for recruitment, gifts, marketing, etc. They can easily be found on the HIPPY USA web site at [www.hippyusa.org](http://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.

Some items available for purchase are shown below:

T-shirts, water bottles, travel mugs, executive pens, tote bags and hand sanitizer.

In addition, we'll be rolling out some new products with the beginning of the program year. We've got some great ideas, but we would like to hear from you, as well. What kind of HIPPY products do you want to promote your program? Please contact

Brad Caviness by calling 501.537.7726 or email [bcaviness@hippyusa.org](mailto:bcaviness@hippyusa.org), and let him know what you'd like to see in the HIPPY Store!

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



T-shirts \$6



Tote Bags \$10

Hand Sanitizer \$2.50



Water Bottles \$3



Limited Sizes! Order Now! 501.537.7726

Executive Pens \$3.50



Travel Mugs \$8



## 2012 National Conference Update Teri Todd

The 2012 National Conference will be held in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in April. Our 10-person national conference committee, comprised of coordinators, state directors, national trainers, HIPPY USA Board and staff members, have been hard at work on

plans to make this a top notch conference!

After early May visits to the top sites selected by the committee, we will share the venue information with you! Stay tuned to your "inbox" the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> for more

details! You don't want to miss it!

For questions about the 2012 National Conference, please contact Teri Todd at 501.537.7728 or email [ttodd@hippyusa.org](mailto:ttodd@hippyusa.org).

## Keeping Up with HIPPY Highlights Brad Caviness

Every two weeks, HIPPY Highlights brings the latest announcements and good news from HIPPY programs across the country, as well as program profiles and examples of innovative and best practices straight to your email inbox.

HIPPY Highlights is a vehicle

for state and local programs to share their exciting developments with the entire HIPPY USA community.

More than news and announcements, it is a place to find and share new ideas. Did your program get results from a new recruitment strategy? "Highlight" it. Has

your program had success utilizing community resources to improve group meetings? "Highlight" it.

If you have an announcement, good news, or program strategy to share, email it to [bcaviness@hippyusa.org](mailto:bcaviness@hippyusa.org).



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



**HIPPYUSA®**

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

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### We're on the Web!

Visit us at:  
[www.hippyusa.com](http://www.hippyusa.com)

