



HIPPYUSA[®]

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

Program Model and Implementation Overview

Model

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home visiting program that focuses on parent involved early learning. HIPPY is unique in that the services are offered directly to parents, who then work with their own three, four, and five year old children. HIPPY's mission is to help parents prepare their children for success in school and beyond, and to empower parents as their children's first teacher by giving them the tools, skills, and confidence they need to work with their children in the home.

Target Population

HIPPY is designed for parents who have doubts about or lack confidence in their ability to instruct their children and prepare them for school. Frequently, these parents did not graduate from high school or had only limited formal education, limited English proficiency, limited financial resources, or other risk factors.

HIPPY serves parents with children ages 3 through 5.

Targeted Outcomes

The goals of HIPPY's programs are to help vulnerable children achieve long term academic success, improve parent-child relationships and increase parent involvement in their children's schools and communities. The short term and long term objectives are listed in the Logic Model (attached).

Program Model Components

The HIPPY model includes four distinct features:

- A developmentally appropriate curriculum;
- Weekly home visits and monthly group meetings;
- Role play as the method of instruction;
- Staffing structure which includes peer home visitors from the community in which the family is being served and professional coordinators with sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable families.

Curriculum

The HIPPY model includes the use of a unique and developmentally appropriate curriculum, with role play as the method of teaching the parent the skills needed to implement the curriculum with their child. Each of the three HIPPY curricula (for ages three, four, and five) contains weekly activity packets, storybooks and a set of manipulative shapes. In addition, supplies such as scissors and crayons are provided for each participating family.

The HIPPY curriculum focuses on exposing children to the skills, concepts, and experience with books that together constitute school readiness for young children. Skills and concepts are developed and built

sequentially through completion of the weekly activities moving progressively from concrete objects to more abstract representations.

The curriculum and supplies are provided free to the families.

Available Languages

The HIPPY USA curriculum is available in both English and Spanish.

Program Model Intensity and Length

HIPPY programs deliver the curriculum for 30 weeks each year – usually during the months that correspond with a typical school year. In addition to the weekly home visits, group meetings, which provide programming of interest to the parents, are offered monthly or at least 6 times a year. Home visits typically last one hour and group meetings last two hours.

HIPPY USA recommends that sites offer the three-year program option for parents of three, four and five year-olds. However, sites may choose to implement a two-year program option. It is highly recommended that parents complete the Age 4 curriculum before entering the Age 5.

Locations

Currently, HIPPY programs are located in 22 states and the District of Columbia. The states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Adaptations and Enhancements

HIPPY USA permits some flexibility with the model in cases in which adaptations are deemed necessary due to local conditions; however, it requires that all programs adhere to core elements that are essential to effective programming. HIPPY USA has developed an adaptations document that reflects the most common changes that are implemented and that still allow for effective service delivery. The document, which is distributed to all programs, shows which adaptations are acceptable and under what specific circumstances they are acceptable, plus guidelines for reporting and implementing.

Implementation Support

The national office of Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY USA) coordinates the efforts of state offices and local HIPPY programs in the United States. The national office provides training and technical assistance, develops and improves the HIPPY materials and model, insures model fidelity, collects national data, and oversees research.

State coordinating offices provide assistance and support to new and existing HIPPY programs in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, and Texas.

Process for Program Start-up

Initial technical assistance provided by the national office includes a pre-planning consultation with potential programs; access to a comprehensive *Start-Up Manual* that provides step-by-step instructions in how to develop the application; and personal guidance throughout the application process.

All HIPPY programs in the United States are affiliated with HIPPY USA. Sites interested in implementing HIPPY: (1) review the program requirements and assess their feasibility to implement the HIPPY core elements; (2) convene a preliminary planning meeting with community representatives to orient and inform members of the community about HIPPY, to discuss the need for and feasibility of implementing HIPPY, to strategize funding possibilities, and to consider potential implementing agencies and possible collaborations; (3) conduct a community needs assessment to ensure there is a need, support, and demand for the program; and (4) secure funding for the first year of implementation and develop a realistic plan for securing second-year funding (HIPPY USA requires all sites to secure funding before implementation begins). After these steps are completed, sites submit an application to HIPPY USA.

If all requirements are met, sites are granted the right to implement HIPPY according to a formal operating agreement (contract) with THE HIPPY USA national office. This three-year agreement spells out the conditions under which the HIPPY name and HIPPY materials can be used and provides the local site with the exclusive right to implement HIPPY in the community as defined in the contract.

Comprehensive training and technical assistance is provided from program inception and through the entire continuum of programming. For start-up programs, the national office provides:

- 1) A five-day Pre-service training for new coordinators and their supervisors,
- 2) An initial three-day on-site training for the home visitors and coordinator,
- 3) A second on-site visit conducted at approximately week 15 of the first year is focused on additional training, sharing of "best practices"; plus, implementation guidance and technical assistance.

The national office provides a number of resources to new and continuing programs: a Fund Development Guide that highlights potential resources; connection to HIPPY programs serving similar populations; materials and resources for public awareness campaigns; information regarding pertinent legislation and funding opportunities; and state specific guidance, where applicable. On-going technical assistance and support includes regular mailings; e-mailings; quarterly newsletters; legislative and funding alerts; public relations materials; access to national office staff and a range of manuals to establish and support quality programming.

Staffing Requirements

A HIPPY program requires two primary staff positions: (1) peer home visitors who deliver the curriculum to their assigned parents each week; and (2) a full-time coordinator who oversees the day-to-day implementation of the HIPPY program, supervise home visitors, and organize group meetings. If it is impossible to hire a coordinator to manage HIPPY on a full-time basis, then HIPPY USA requires sites to hire an assistant coordinator.

Staff Education and Experience

HIPPY USA requires coordinators to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, elementary education, family or adult education, social work, or a related field. Coordinators should also have strong training, leadership, communication, organizational, and administrative skills, as well as knowledge of the needs and interests of families in underserved communities. A member of the target community is preferred. HIPPY USA requires coordinators to complete a week-long HIPPY pre-service training.

HIPPY USA requires that home visitors be recruited from the targeted community and have a child of HIPPY-appropriate age, or have access to a practice child with whom they can engage in the HIPPY

curriculum. Other qualifications may be specified by the local implementing agency.

Staff Ratio Requirements

HIPPY USA recommends that home visitors working on a part-time basis maintain a caseload of between 10 and 15 children; those working full-time should maintain a caseload of up to 25 children. HIPPY USA recommends that sites determine the ratio of children to home visitor based on the characteristics of the community served, such as distances to be traveled between visits and the vulnerability of families.

Supervision Requirements

Coordinators are responsible for the ongoing supervision and training of home visitors and the execution of an appropriate staff development plan. Coordinators make home visits to observe each home visitor three times a year. Coordinators are required to hold weekly in-service training for home visitors at which the curriculum, activities, challenges, and problems are modeled and discussed.

It is recommended that coordinators oversee programs with no more than 180 children and a staff that ranges from 7- 12 home visitors, depending if they are part-time or full-time.

Data Systems/Technology Requirements

HIPPY USA requires that sites use a robust data collection system and recommends that programs use the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) management information system used by HIPPY. This online program records data about the participating families and tracks their progress in the program. The coordinators and home visitors are responsible for completing the reporting forms and inputting the information into the ETO system. The ETO is a powerful tool for providing real time data at the local, state, and national levels to support program management, sustainability, expansion, research, evaluation, and continuous quality improvement. The ETO software is free to program sites.

Average Cost per Family

The average cost for HIPPY per child per year is \$1,200 - \$2,000. This estimate is based on 60-180 children and includes salaries for staff, fees for training and technical assistance, license and affiliation, program development, the cost of curriculum materials, and other direct costs. The cost per child may vary based on the budget requirements of individual program sites.

Assessment Tools

A manual is disseminated that provides information on a variety of instruments that are used successfully by local programs, such as the Work Sampling System, Peabody Developmental Motor Scale, Ages and Stages Questionnaires, and Kindergarten Readiness assessments.

HIPPY collects the assessment and outcome information necessary for measuring all the constructs in the relevant benchmarks. The Efforts to Outcomes management information system used by HIPPY USA can analyze results of pre and post assessments, identify and track key trends; identify which efforts are most effective at achieving desired outcomes; monitor participant engagement; and track progress on critical benchmarks.