



**HIPPYUSA**  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

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# 2010 HIPPY USA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*The Bridge to Change for Children, Families and Communities*

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
APRIL 11-14, 2010

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## HIPPY USA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



April 11-14, 2010

## 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.

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## Marvin's Message

*A weekly email update from the HIPPY USA National Executive Director*

## Updates for March 12, 2010

### We're Just One Month Away from HIPPY USA's National Conference!

We're entering the final weeks leading to the National Conference, and while a few registration deadlines are still open, this exciting event is shaping up rapidly. At this time, some 350 HIPPY staff has signed up to attend the program, and many others are expected in the next few days.

Make your conference reservations TODAY! Hotel rooms are booking quickly, and we want to ensure that all participants receive the discounted rate!

HIPPY State Offices have been involved in planning large events and are familiar with the numerous small tasks and diverse activities that arise at the last minute and demand attention. It's a race to the finish line for the National Office staff. With local HIPPY programs underway across the country, we're getting lots of experience in multi-tasking!

Ready for the REALLY BIG NEWS? We've had confirmation that our keynote speaker for the Avima Gala will be the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin. HIPPY staff from Mobile, Alabama has known this dedicated physician from her work at a health clinic in Bayou Le Batre and her efforts for post-Katrina recovery. HIPPY has been active in the area, serving new immigrant Vietnamese families. You don't want to miss Dr. Benjamin's program at the Avima Gala on April 11, the conference kickoff event.

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## IN THE NEWS

### HIPPY Home Visitation Impacts Families

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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What better tribute to Avima's legacy



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March 5, 2010 

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What better tribute to Avima's legacy than the achievements of the children in which her work had a direct impact - with visible results!

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### HIPPY Photo Highlight



Michelle Mackin-Brown, Coordinator with the Jeffco HIPPY program in Lakewood, Colorado, sent in this photo and shared the following information. "We are super excited for Jeffco HIPPY's Oceana 'Ana Rose' Ewing! She won the Award for Most Outstanding Presentation at Hackberry Hill Elementary School's Science Fair. Ana Rose is in kindergarten and used a HIPPY science activity from the Age 5 curriculum for her entry. Her entry was titled *Will String Stick to an Ice Cube.*" This photo shows Ana Rose and her project.

**We'll announce the photo contest winners during the National Conference in April – don't miss it!**

### Champion Event Activity

- The final sets of invitations are being mailed.
- Press releases and follow up media contacts are being finalized.
- Sponsors are being contacted with follow up phone calls and meetings.
- Event program content is being created and confirmed.
- Donations and ticket sales continue to arrive.

### National Conference Activity

- Arkansas HIPPY continues to provide several important supporting roles, including assistance in preparing conference bags and providing a group of volunteers for general support. It has been a great advantage in having that experienced and dedicated state crew on the conference planning team.
- March 15 is the deadline for registering for the Pharaoh Exhibit and Mosaic Templars Cultural Center cultural outing, ordering conference t-shirts, and placing conference ads.
- Travel arrangements are being obtained for national trainers.
- Sponsors are being contacted with follow up phone calls and meetings.
- 12 vendors will host 25 vendor booths.
- Design planning and cost estimates are in process for the Avima Lombard display.
- The design of the conference book is in progress. A local firm, Twin City Printing, is supporting the work with a production cost discount.
- Letters welcoming conference attendees to Little Rock are being received from Arkansas elected officials.

### National Office

- The MIS Committee has identified two vendors as finalists for creating the new on-line system. References and other issues regarding the firms are being explored. A selection is expected soon.
- The new web site is up and running. Most "kinks" have been worked out and a few pieces of information still need updates. This will be a work in progress.
- The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority in Cleveland, OH program is re-starting its HIPPY program. Program sponsors such as housing authorities, health clinics, and other non-educational organizations reflect the value HIPPY provides to broader efforts in community development.
- HIPPY was well represented this week at a panel of leading national home visiting organizations. The event was the annual conference of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington, DC. The panel put HIPPY on the stage with representatives from the Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, National Parent Child Home Program, and Healthy Families America. While others spoke of numbers and policy issues, HIPPY's message of transforming lives and building healthy families drew the largest applause.

### National Issues and Opportunities

- The Administration for Children and Families is seeking applicants to the 2010-11 National Head Start Fellowships program. The program develops a cadre of leaders in the fields of child development, early childhood education, and children and family services. Head Start Fellows gain first-hand experience and a national perspective on public policymaking and Federal agencies serving children and families. In addition to work assignments, the Fellows take part in professional education and leadership development programs. The 12-month Fellowships commence October 1, 2010 and end on September 30, 2011. Applications are due by April 1, 2010. Click here for more information.
- A March 8 article in Education Week analyzed the U.S. Department of Education the final rules for the \$650 million [Investing in Innovation](#), or i3, grant program. Go [here](#) to read the analysis.
- Pregnant and new mothers can sign upon for **Text4Babies**, a free health information service that provides health-related text messages. Click here for more information. A webinar on the new program will be conducted on March 17, 2-3 p.m. (EST). To join, go to [here](#).
- April is Prevent Child Abuse Month, and the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome is offering a free poster to raise awareness. Place your order online [here](#) or by phone at 801-627-3399. Shipping and Handling Not Included. Sizes Available: 18 x 25. COUPON CODE: FreePoster. ITEM NUMBERS: POST-TUF-25. Offer Expires 4/30/2010.

Until next week...

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