



HIPPIYUSA®

HIPPIY TIMES

A Love of Learning Begins at Home

Spring 2009

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

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TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TIPS

By M. Gayle Hart, HIPPIY USA National Program Director

The end of your HIPPIY year is fast approaching! In anticipation, there are several actions that you can and should take. Read below for ways to ensure a successful completion to the current year and a great start for next year!

- ✓ Coordinate an End-of-the-Year event that showcases the HIPPIY student's accomplishments as well as their talent (*check with your school/agency for protocols*)
 - Complete certificates for adults and children – create your own or purchase
 - Recruit a high profile person to speak and/or hand out the certificates
 - Encourage agency administrators, funders, stakeholders, and other HIPPIY program champions to attend
 - Invite the media; prepare a press release (see for how to's)
 - Showcase Age 5 children's "pull pages" from their entire enrollment compiled as a booklet (*these should be given to the respective parents at the end of the ceremony*)
 - Feature a display board with pictures from activities during the past year
 - Display children's art work created at group meetings
 - Have HIPPIY children sing and/or recite poems! Look for samples on the website – www.hippyusa.org (*as previously recommended, if mandatory practice sessions are conducted during group meetings, this serves as yet another motivation for parents to attend*)
- ✓ Hold a special event that recognizes fathers (i.e., a cook-out where the dads man the grill – seek donations of burgers and hot dogs from a local grocer)
- ✓ Plan one or more summer activities (picnic; field trip; classes/courses to support family engagement / family retention / future recruitment / public relations / children's learning)
- ✓ Complete the HIPPIY MIS End of the Year Report!
- ✓ Survey parents for their reactions and input for the entire year (sample documents can be downloaded from the HUSA website at www.hippyusa.org); use this information for future planning
- ✓ Review your program accomplishments (use the parent survey above, MIS, SAFE or Program Report)
- ✓ Take a personal performance inventory, noting accomplishments and opportunities for improvement

Getting to Know You

By Marvin Schwartz
HIPPIY USA Executive Director

The first warnings came within moments of my walking through the doors at the national office. Boxes of folders and reports covered the office floor, challenging my passage like a boot camp training ground. Book cases and file cabinets were overloaded with binders and thick stapled reports. Stepping into my new office was like negotiating the check out lines at Wal-Mart, sizing up my choices for the path of least resistance.

But what really stopped me in my tracks were the emails. One message after the next expressed the same sentiments, each one essentially saying "Welcome to HIPPIY.... Please let us know how we can be of help." The warm greetings and offers of assistance were an affirmation of the spirit of our organization and the core purpose of our work. HIPPIY is in the business of helping people.

I shouldn't have been surprised that so many of you reached out in that manner. Working with families in their homes and encouraging parents to educate their children, you accept people where they are. You help families to be the best they can be for their children and for themselves.

We are painfully aware of the challenging economic conditions facing our country at this time. In these trying times, I predict we will see a return to basic programs and practices. Families and communities will take renewed faith in the things they know are useful and true. Our program, I believe, will gain new prominence as a result.

HIPPIY has a progressive family-centered vision of human development. It is a privilege and pleasure to get to know the many people who make this happen.

HIPPIY Photo Contest!

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

We are looking for pictures to use throughout the year in HUSA publications and to include at the opening session of the 2010 National Conference. Winners will be announced at the National Conference.

For more information, go to www.hippyusa.org, and click on the photo contest link. Be sure to include the photo permission form with all submissions.



Madison County, AL Home Visitor Lisa Marris completes a "Spot Lesson" with HIPPIY child Aibhlin Alwin.

**Save the Date
2009 Pre-Service Training**



From left: Florida HIPPY members Alicia Flores, Jeanne Griffith, and Shujwana Lamy pose as they receive their 2008 Pre-Service Certificates.

2009 Pre-Service Training will be held August 9th -14th in Little Rock. Deadline to register is June 26th.

For registration and more information go to www.hippyusa.org.

For questions please contact Kristi Meyer at 501.537.7739 or email kmeyer@hippyusa.org.

Check your email and mailbox for registration forms!



Affordable Office Furniture and Supplies

The Federal Surplus Property program exists in every state and, if your program qualifies, will allow purchases of a wide variety of new and used property. Shipping costs will vary.

Furniture, office supplies, vehicles, tools, building supplies, and much more are available. For more information contact Letha Todd at the national office: 501.537.7729 or ltodd@hippyusa.org.

Jeffco HIPPY – Building Bright Futures

By Michelle Brown
Program Coordinator, Lakewood, CO



Jeffco HIPPY Home Visitor Michelle Brown and HIPPY Mom JoEllen Ladenburger during role play (2002).

In Jeffco Public Schools, our mission statement is *Building Bright Futures*. Jeffco HIPPY is proud to be a part of the process. HIPPY first came to Jeffco in 1994 as a small program serving 30 families at one elementary school. It has since expanded incrementally each year and currently serves over 215 families at 13 Title I schools. The program is truly helping to build bright futures through community and district relationships.

In Colorado, we are fortunate to have a state office, the Colorado Parent and Child Foundation (CPCF). CPCF is extremely proactive in fund development (including Federal and State funds) and training for programs, coordinators and home visitors. Colorado received the first AmeriCorps grant for HIPPY sites and Jeffco HIPPY has been receiving these funds since the inception of AmeriCorps. CPCF recently completed a longitudinal study with Jeffco HIPPY children and families which reported significant results and has been well received by district administrators focusing on data driven decision making. In 2003, our program became a part of the Grants and Federal Programs in Jeffco Public Schools. In 2004, our trainer envisioned a partnership with Title I, since HIPPY fits nicely within the parent involvement component. The Executive Director of Grants and Federal Programs was very excited about this partnership and began providing Jeffco HIPPY with Title I funds to purchase curriculum, books and materials.

Jeffco HIPPY now actively participates in the Jeffco Division of Instruction and Alliance of Liaisons. The Alliance of Liaisons consists of Program Coordinators whose programs employ liaisons who work directly with families in the District. This group works to provide training opportunities to staff, conduct parent meetings, share resources and refer families to appropriate intervention programs and services.

Community partnerships have also been an important focus of Jeffco HIPPY. We frequently collaborate with the following organizations for group meeting facilitation and to refer and recruit families: CSU Cooperative Extension Office, West Metro Fire District, Pridemark Paramedic Service, Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, Jefferson County Public Library, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, WIC, Jefferson County Health Department, Jefferson County Public Library, Head Start, Jeffco Preschools, Jeffco Action Center and Colorado Department of Health.

We are frequently contacted by local schools and agencies with requests for referrals. The need for HIPPY is ever increasing in our community. Our hope for the next program year is to increase services by 40-60 families in Jefferson County. This would allow us to expand HIPPY and make it available at all 20 Title I schools in our District. At Jeffco HIPPY, we believe that through partnership and collaboration, we are able to help ensure bright futures for our HIPPY families.



HIPPY USA's newest staff member, April Null, is the new AmeriCorps/Training Coordinator for the National Office.

New AmeriCorps/Training Coordinator Hired

April Null officially joined HIPPY USA on March 23rd. She comes to HIPPY from the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Volunteerism, the oldest state office of volunteerism in the country. She holds a BA in History, a Graduate Certificate in Non-profit Management and is a Certified Volunteer Manager.

April's job responsibilities will include management and oversight of the HIPPYCorps Initiative, including programmatic, administrative and fiscal matters, as well as assistance in the training efforts of the national office. She enjoys volunteering and believes that service and education are key components to success.

April lives in Little Rock, AR with her husband, Clay, their two children Eliza Jane (3) and Miles (8 months), and their 9 year old Golden Retriever, Dickson. As an active volunteer, she is a member of Junior League of Little Rock, is the Secretary of Hearts and Hands (the parent organization at her children's school), is a former board chair for Pulaski County Friends of CASA Advisory Council, and is an active church volunteer. April has also participated in several different capacities during disaster recovery efforts.

When offered the new position, April told the HUSA staff, "I am excited to begin working with HIPPY USA! I look forward to learning, helping and growing with the HIPPY USA family."

Avima's Legacy

What better tribute to Avima's legacy than the achievements of the children in which her work had a direct impact – with visible results! Avima Lombard has left an imprint on early childhood education that will constantly inspire us as we continue her work to ensure that every child succeeds.

In May of 2008, Isierene Brown contacted HIPPY USA to share an update on a former HIPPY student. Her daughter, Autumn, had been named Salutatorian of the Dumas High School graduating class in Dumas, AR and been awarded a prestigious scholarship to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. In addition, Autumn received numerous other distinctions and honors during her high school career. Ms. Brown credits her Home Visitor and the support from the local HIPPY program staff with their family's educational success.



Five year-old Autumn Brown smiles for the camera.

Interviewed by HIPPYTimes, Autumn shared the comments below:

What is your fondest HIPPY memory? *HIPPY was an important part of my childhood. I'll have to say that my fondest HIPPY moment was the HIPPY graduation because we dressed in our little paper gowns and hats. It made us feel important because the entire event was about us. Since I did not go to preschool right off the bat, HIPPY was my only means of meeting other children.*

How did the program impact your family? Did you look forward to the Home Visits and Group Meetings? *My HIPPY guide was actually my aunt. It gave us an opportunity to grow closer while giving us something to do besides watch T.V. Since my mom had to work, I was alone with my aunt, so we began the HIPPY program to enhance my learning abilities. The HIPPY Home Visits were usually fun because I got to show off what I had learned.*

Did you make any friends during your time with the HIPPY Program that you remain friends with today? *In high school, many of my friends were also part of the HIPPY Program. My parents videotaped my HIPPY Graduation and, I didn't realize it until I recently watched the tape, but many of my high school friends were HIPPY kids.*

Is there any other information you would like to share about your HIPPY, high school or college experiences? *I would highly recommend HIPPY to anyone whose children are having a hard time coming out of their shell. HIPPY helped me learn how to interact with people outside of my comfort zone. I can say it had an impact on my success now.*



Autumn, shown here in her Senior Portrait, graduated in 2008 as Salutatorian of her class.

If my family did not instill in me the importance of a quality education, I would not have acquired a thirst for learning. Learning is fun and it is something that you can never have too much of – because you really learn something new everyday. I am very thankful to my aunt and my mom for wanting me to learn and helping me as much as they could. I give them – and HIPPY – full credit for my 4.1 GPA in high school and for graduating salutatorian of my class.



HIPPY Alumni success stories will continue in the next issue. The story of Erica McMahon, former Heber Springs, AR HIPPY participant and Salutatorian of Pangburn High School, will be highlighted.

Avima Tributes

Avima Lombard was such a strong, confident teacher to those of us working in HIPPY. I remember specifically her open hospitality to her home in New York. She took us on tours, shared favorite foods and invited us to stay at her home. She came to Little Rock many times and always encouraged and shared with us in a very nonthreatening positive way. I consider HIPPY, but most especially Dr. Lombard, to be influential in my growth both professionally as a principal and with building relationships with the community and parents.

Michele French, principal with Cabot School District and former AR HIPPY State Director

A New Era for HIPPY USA

by Ann Marchetti
Chair, HIPPY USA Board of Trustees

Following this week's HIPPY USA Board of Trustees meeting in San Francisco, I found myself reflecting on the small, dedicated group of individuals that have helped to keep HIPPY USA alive and successful for more than 20 years. Our Board of Trustees consists of 15 voting members and five ex-officio members from enormously diverse backgrounds: early childhood education, development and fundraising, computer science, finance, child advocacy, non-profit, and corporate leadership. Each member not only absorbs the cost to attend Board meetings, but donates cash to support unrestricted initiatives. Many also volunteer hundreds of hours each month to HIPPY – both nationally and locally. I know of no other national board that has this level of dedication, support, and day-to-day input with an organization.

I also found myself reflecting on the first 100 days of our president, Barack Obama, and how closely his tenure reflects that of HIPPY USA's leader, Marvin Schwartz. The current approval ratings for both men are way above average. To remain there, the President must work tirelessly to put his campaign promises into action. For Marvin, it means executing some of the changes suggested by our customers, changes that have been awaiting leadership and action.

HIPPY USA customers are state directors, national trainers, home visitors, coordinators, parents, children, graduates, board members and others. These groups have made HIPPY a national leader in home based early childhood education and school readiness. The Board shares this vision, but most importantly, we envision HIPPY USA as an organization whose customers value the relationship and take pride in the affiliation. The Board agreed that we must listen and respond to the needs of our customers. And we must be willing to do things differently, with openness to new and better outcomes, and we must react quickly to areas where our customers are seeking change.

Much like President Obama, Marvin has a big job ahead of him. But he is not alone. He has a talented staff, dedicated Board/advisors, and a field of friends and supporters willing to make HIPPY USA the strongest possible national organization it can be. The Board's role is to guide and advise Marvin to achieve our common goals. The field, as well, must redirect its perceptions and behavior to better support HIPPY USA and its new leader. The result will be a new sharing of wisdom and experience across the nation.

HIPPY USA will thrive as a valued national organization when we support the growth and stability of the HIPPY model. We will become a clearinghouse of promising practices, gather meaningful research and data, develop powerful marketing and public relations efforts, advocate for funding and legislation, and respond to our customers needs for training and support. None of us can do this alone. Through teamwork and cooperation, we will pursue and achieve perfection for HIPPY USA!



HIPPYUSA®

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Mission Statement

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.

HIPPY USA supports the development and operation of programs in communities across the United States through ongoing program development and technical assistance informed by research and public policy.

HIPPYTIMES

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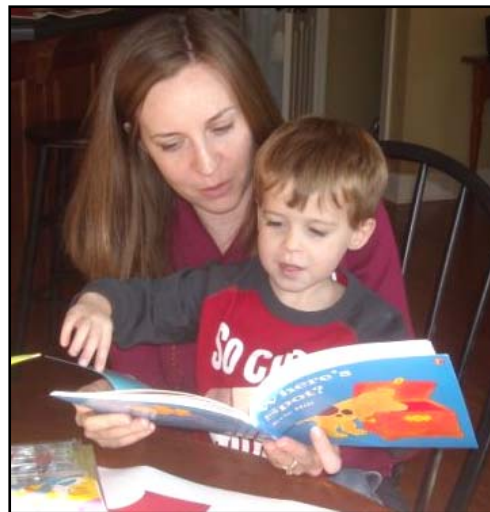
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Send an email request to:
info@hippyusa.org.

Please note: You will still be responsible for all materials and meeting all deadlines.

Send Us Your Photos!



Madison County, AL HIPPY Mom Amanda Dycus works on a spot lesson with three year-old son, Aidan.

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