

FLORIDA HIPPY SUCCESS STORIES BOOKLET



Photo compliments of Sarasota HIPPY

A Love of Learning Begins At Home



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HIPPYUSA
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
FLORIDA

Supported by funds from the Florida Partnership for School Readiness in collaboration with the University of South Florida

Quick Reference Guide

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About the Florida HIPPY State Office

The Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center was established in 1995 with funds from a Federal Title IV Parent Involvement Project grant at the Hillsborough County Center of Excellence and was housed at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

The role of the state office is to work in collaboration with HIPPY's national office, HIPPY USA in New York to provide training, technical support, and guidance to all of the HIPPY programs in the state of Florida. Currently, the state HIPPY office is staffed by four employees: a State Director, an Assistant State Director, an Administrative Assistant, and a Staff Assistant. There are also two researchers from USF assigned to work with HIPPY. They are conducting national and state-wide HIPPY research projects in collaboration with the state office and HIPPY USA.

With support from the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, the University of South Florida and HIPPY USA, the state office functions as the heart of Florida HIPPY Programs.

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Greetings From The State Director

Dear HIPPY friends and advocates,

Welcome to the second edition of the HIPPY Success Stories booklet. The purpose of this booklet is to highlight the accomplishments of the Florida HIPPY programs as reported through research and evaluation and parent/home visitor testimonials. Those of you who had an opportunity to read our first HIPPY Success Stories booklet will enjoy reading our new success stories. Over the past five years, HIPPY programs have formed new collaborative partnerships that have increased the capacity of many programs to serve more children and families. These new collaborative partnerships as well as information about funding sources and a program overview are presented in the individual program profiles.



The Florida HIPPY State Office, located at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, has the responsibility of serving over 1,600 children in Florida from a variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Florida is the second largest HIPPY state in the United States, and the University of South Florida has been designated as the research arm of HIPPY USA. Three statewide research studies have been conducted since 2000 to document the influence of HIPPY on parents and children. The results of our latest study on parent involvement in home literacy and community educational activities and children's pre-academic skills are included in this booklet.

The Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center is committed to seeking new ways of providing training and technical support to Florida HIPPY programs including providing hands-on assistance when needed. We have increased our electronic capability through the Florida HIPPY website that include state newsletters, research briefs, and evaluation reports. Three annual regional trainings in North, Central, and South Florida are conducted that provide our home visitors with CEU's towards an early childhood credential. Our advocacy efforts include presentations at national and state early childhood conferences.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to the Florida HIPPY coordinators, home visitors/parent educators, and parents for their contributions to this booklet. Their personal stories of HIPPY success certainly reflect their genuine love of HIPPY and their commitment to children's success in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lindsey".

Mary Lindsey, Ph.D.
Director, Florida HIPPY State Office

What Is HIPPY?

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters



HIPPY is a strong, home visiting, parent involvement model designed to remove barriers and to reach low income families and parents with limited education.

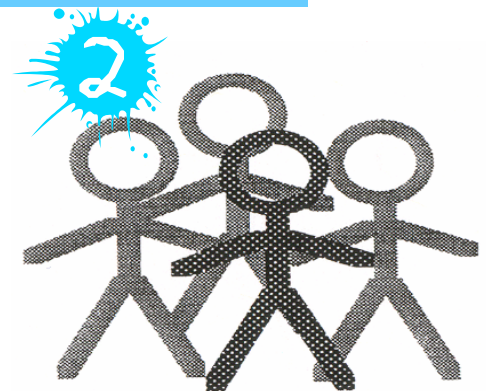
The model employs trained home visitors from targeted communities and is led by a HIPPY coordinator. The 30-week curriculum is an explicit, direct, instructional program focusing on language development, problem solving, perceptual discrimination, and other pre-academic skills as well as active parental involvement in the learning process.

Local HIPPY programs are implemented through a community-based agency, school district, or housing department. Funding for HIPPY comes from a variety of federal, state, local, and private sources. The research-based model has been successfully implemented in many different cultures, languages, and settings nationally and internationally. The successful implementation of HIPPY in these different settings has been due to the ability of each local agency to adapt the model to suit the specific needs and resources of the community.

Essential Features of HIPPY



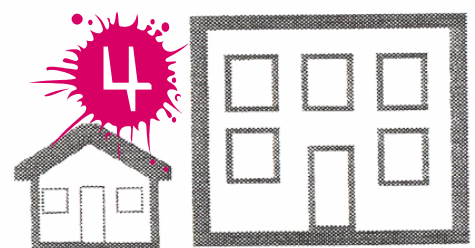
3 year home based curriculum
30 weeks per year



Professional Coordinator
Staff of Paraprofessionals



Role Playing
Instructional Technique



Home Visits and Group Meetings

HIPPY PHILOSOPHY

HIPPY is based on several beliefs about parents, children, and learning:

- ◆ All parents want the very best for their children.
- ◆ All children can learn.
- ◆ Kindergarten classrooms and curricula assume a certain amount of knowledge and skills.
- ◆ This knowledge and these skills can be taught.
- ◆ People learn by doing (among other ways).
- ◆ Parents can and do teach their children.
- ◆ Parents can teach and support other parents.

These beliefs assume that all communities of parents and children have strengths that can be built upon. That's why HIPPY is called a "strengths model".

HOW HIPPY PROMOTES SCHOOL READINESS AND LITERACY

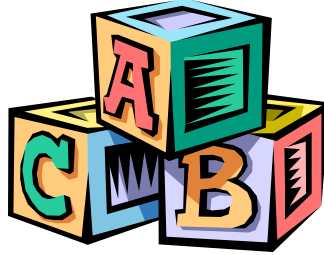
HIPPY:

- brings storybooks into the homes and leaves them in the home.
- offers many experiences with books (reading and story comprehension), language, vocabulary, writing, auditory discrimination, and phonological awareness.
- provides activities that help parents talk about content, illustrations, and characters.
- offers a variety of activities that encompass different development, problem solving, fine and gross motor development, and social and emotional development.
- provides activities that children enjoy and can be successful at completing.
- provides opportunities to experience poetry, rhymes, finger-plays, and games.
- offers children opportunities to use a variety of materials.
- offers activities that are intrinsically interesting to children and that foster ways to promote purposeful learning in the home.
- suggests enrichment activities that foster creativity and imagination and that expand the learning gained through the HIPPY activities.
- provides additional learning experiences through group activities and special events.

HIPPY Promotes Children’s School Readiness and Literacy through Parent Involvement by:

- providing home visits that offer one-on-one instruction in the parent’s language.
- giving parents materials that are age appropriate for children as well as information and support for parents.
- having group meetings that provide socialization for children and information and support for parents.
- helping parents understand what their child is learning and how that supports future learning.
- creating an environment that supports the parent in the role as their child’s first teacher.
- providing materials that are culturally diverse and are written at a reading level that is comfortable for a variety of parents.
- showing parents how they can expand learning for children in their daily life.
- giving parents information about child development and how to translate that knowledge into successful parenting techniques.
- holding parent workshops at group meetings on topics of interests to parents, such as child development, discipline, nutrition, etc. and providing information on and access to other family resource links.

GUIDELINES FOR STARTING A HIPPY PROGRAM



HIPPY is not a mail-order kit. It is a structured, home-community model focused on parent-child centered learning. It may be operated through existing agencies and organizations that have the space, fiscal, and personnel support to administer the program.

Establishing a HIPPY Program means:

- Forming a local group of interested advisors;
- Selecting an implementing agency;
- Raising funds;
- Working with HIPPY USA and the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center;
- Preparing and submitting an application;
- Training a program coordinator and becoming a part of a growing national network of HIPPY Programs.



HIPPYUSA
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

A Love Of Learning Begins At Home

Florida HIPPY Research 2004

Parent Involvement in Literacy Activities and Children's Readiness for School

There are many ways of looking at the effectiveness of HIPPY in preparing children for school. A longitudinal study compared HIPPY children to a matched group of children who had not participated in HIPPY and found that HIPPY children had fewer school suspensions; higher grades in reading, math, and language arts; better classroom behavior; and higher achievement test scores. Thus HIPPY has been demonstrated to have long term effects on children's academic performance and success in school.

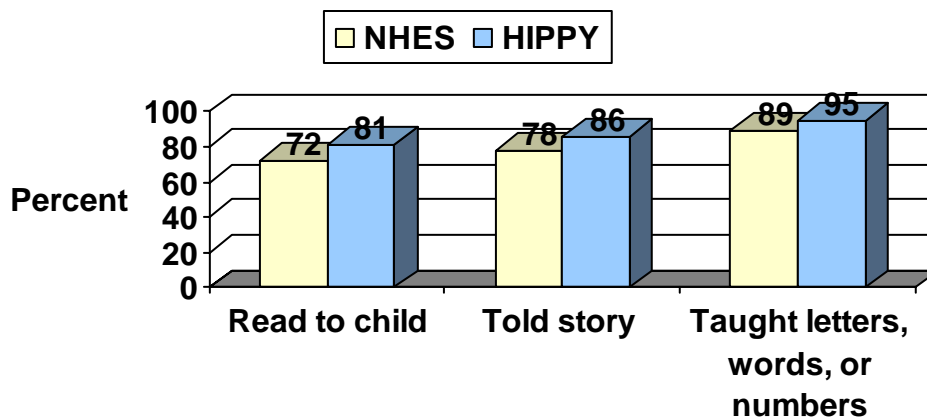
Because the HIPPY model affects children through working directly with their parents, another way of determining the effectiveness of HIPPY is to gather information on changes parents make as a result of participating in HIPPY. In the study reported here, a telephone survey was conducted with parents participating in HIPPY programs in Florida asking them to indicate whether they had engaged in a number of different home literacy activities during the past week and in certain community educational activities with their children during the past month. Parents were also asked to indicate their child's current skills in recognizing letters of the alphabet, counting, writing their first name, and reading story books on their own. The questions on the Florida HIPPY Parent Survey II on parent involvement in educational activities and children's pre-academic skills were drawn from the Parent Interview of the 1999 National Household Education Survey. The NHES was selected as the comparison study because participants in this survey were parents of young children; it is a national representative sample; it measured the same content areas that were of interest in this study; and used the same methodology developed for the Florida HIPPY Parent Survey II.

Data analyses compared the responses from the Florida HIPPY Parent Survey to the responses of participants in the National Household Education Survey 1999. A copy of the full report can be found on the Florida HIPPY website: <http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu>.

The following results from the Florida HIPPY Parent Study II are for the families who reported an annual household income of less than \$25,000 on both the National and HIPPY studies.

- A larger percentage of HIPPY parents reported that they read to their child more than three times during the past week, told their child a story, and taught their child letters, words, or numbers.

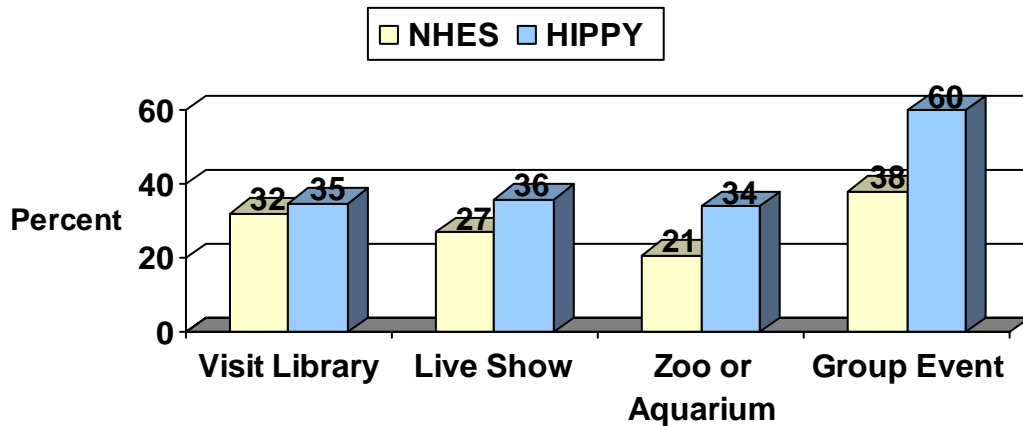
**Figure 1. Home Literacy Activities During Past Week
Parents with Incomes Below \$25,000**



Florida HIPPY Research Continued

- HIPPY families are more likely to have visited a library with their children, gone to a play, concert, or other live show, or visited a zoo or aquarium.
- A much larger percentage of HIPPY parents attended an event with their children sponsored by a community, ethnic, or religious group.

**Figure 2. Community Educational Activities During Past Month
Families with Incomes Below \$25,000**

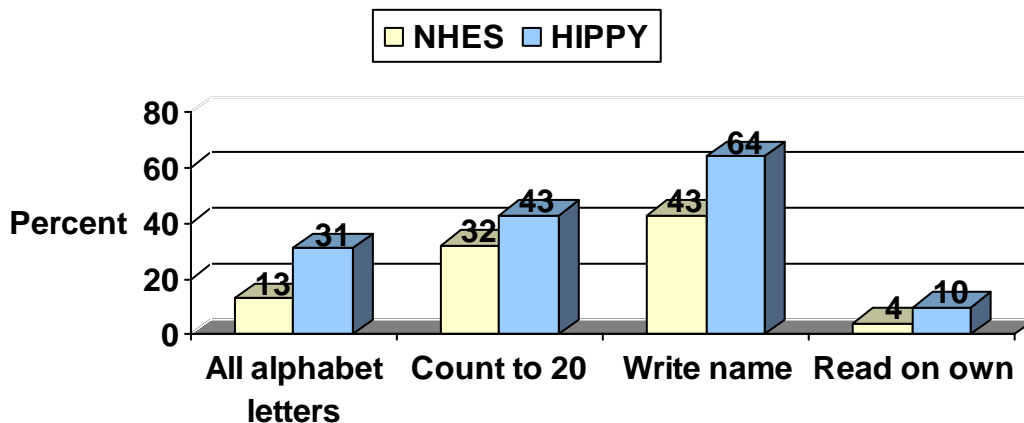


**FINDINGS ON CHILDREN'S PRE-ACADEMIC SKILLS
(Children Not Enrolled in Kindergarten)**

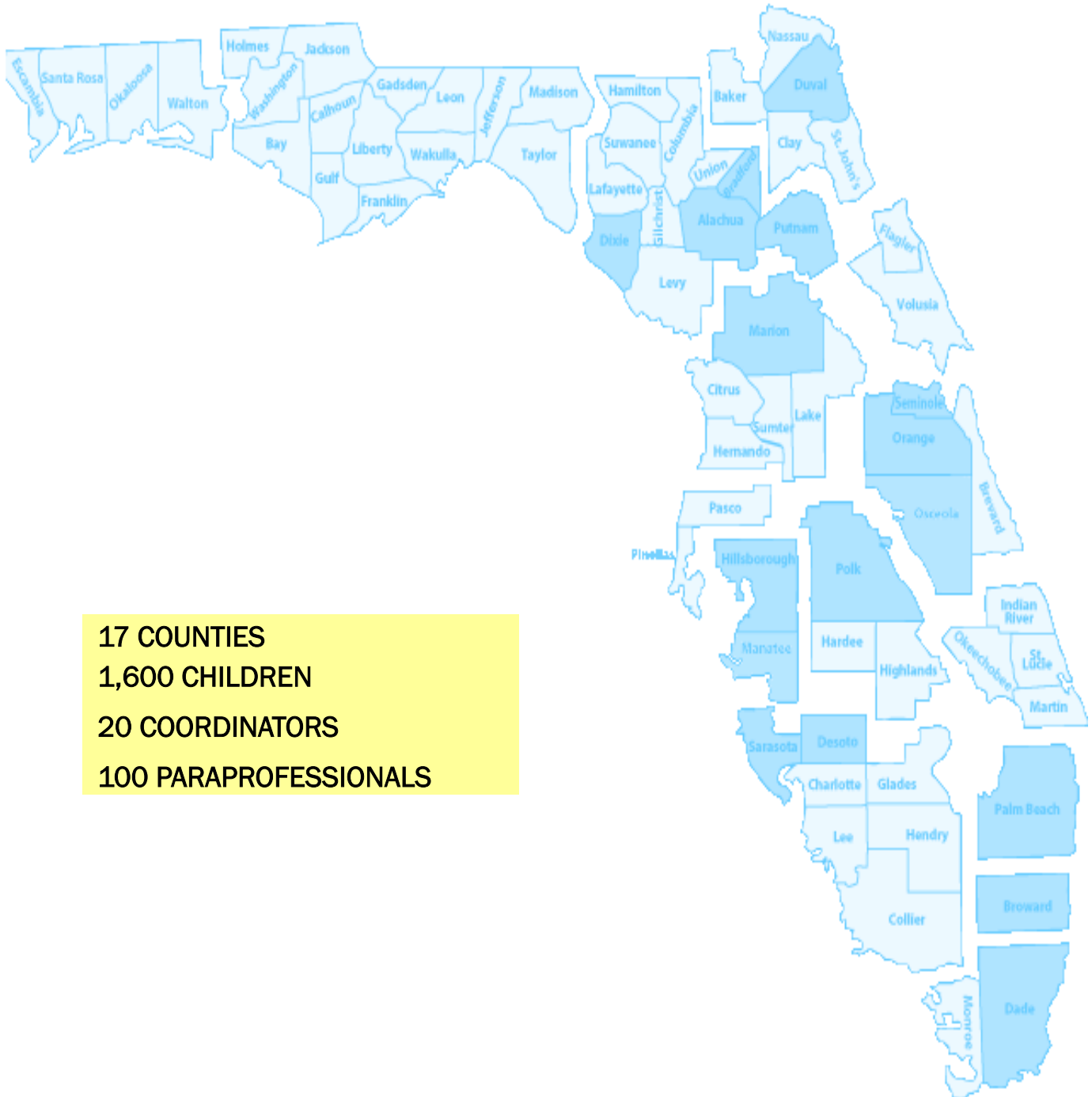
Parents were asked to report on their child's pre-academic skills with regard to recognizing alphabet letters, counting, writing their first name, and reading or pretending to read story books on their own.

- HIPPY children from low income households are developing pre-academic skills in all child competency areas measured in this survey, as reported by their parents, and are doing so in larger proportions than NHES children.

**Figure 3. Pre-Academic Skills of Children --
Parent Income Below \$25,000**



Florida HIPPY Programs



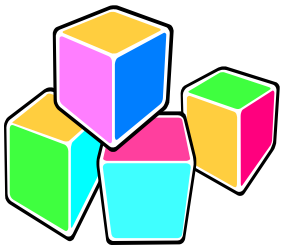
17 COUNTIES
1,600 CHILDREN
20 COORDINATORS
100 PARAPROFESSIONALS

ARCADIA

SARASOTA FAMILY YMCA

DeSoto County

Year Program Started:	1998
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	88
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	75
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Community Funding, and Others	



Collaborative Partnerships: DeSoto County Library, DeSoto County School System, DeSoto County Health Department, Safe Children Coalition, Healthy Families, FDLRS Heartland, DeSoto County Children and Families, All Faith Food Bank

Program Overview

The DeSoto County HIPPY program is located in Arcadia and has been in DeSoto County for almost eight years. Funding for our program is currently provided through a sub-agreement with the University of South Florida as well as additional funding and support from the Sarasota Family YMCA.

DeSoto County is a small, rural, agricultural community. The income base is low for many of our families. The population is ethnically diverse and largely mobile to serve the agricultural industry. The program maintains a staff consisting of one, fulltime Coordinator and three fulltime Home Visitors.

Parent/Child Success Story

“I am the father of a little boy who I am very proud of. He will be going to school this coming year. He can count to 100, and he knows all of his colors and shapes. He enjoys me reading to him, and he can also read some of the words by himself. I am not a rich man, and my son did not get to go to a preschool to help him learn the things that he needs to know to go to school, but because of us being in the HIPPY program, I feel that my child will do just as good as the other children that go to preschool. I thank God every day for our home visitor. She comes to our home after I get off from work to work with me so I can teach my son. Our children are our futures, and we as parents need to do all that we can to help our children have the futures that they deserve. With HIPPY, they will. I want to thank everyone that makes the HIPPY program work for my son and for me.”

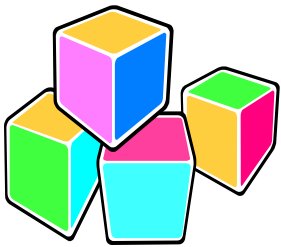
A proud HIPPY father

BRADENTON

RESOURCE CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Manatee County

Year Program Started:	2002
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	35
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	34
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Manatee County School Readiness Coalition, Quality Assurance Care Consultants, Family Resource Division, and Community Cooburo

Program Overview

The Bradenton HIPPY program is part of the Resource Connection for Kids, formerly known as Project Child Care. The mission of Resource Connection for Kids is to coordinate and facilitate quality child-care and family resources. The basic services include: childcare resources, quality assurance, healthy families, and family resources. Resource Connection for Kids has community linkages with other social service agencies and a history of local funding and high quality service delivery.

The program is housed in a very supportive agency with over 25 years of experience working with children and families. HIPPY is funded by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness via a subcontract with the Florida State HIPPY T&TA Center at the University of South Florida. During 2003-2004, the agency received state funds to serve 45 children and \$26,000 from the Parent Involvement Resource Center grant to serve an additional 16 children. The staff is ethnically diverse and represents the targeted populations and has the capability, leadership, and resources to become a model program.

Parent/Child Success Story

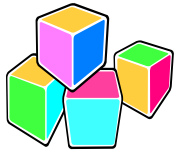
“Luis Arenas was enrolled with HIPPY for over two years. His mother Claudia Arenas said it has had a tremendous impact on not only Luis but also his family. Mrs. Claudia said she has learned how to teach Luis and help him to develop so many skills. She said “I feel confident that with HIPPY guidelines to follow, my son is developing a love of reading and will be fully prepared for school.”

A Bradenton HIPPY Parent

CROSS CITY DIXIE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Dixie County

Year Program Started:	2001
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	25
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	22
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Dixie County School District, Even Start, Preschool Readiness, TAP Program, and GED Program

Program Overview

Dixie District Schools HIPPY program is operating in its fourth year. For 2004-2005, we are serving 50 families. We are housed and partly funded by Dixie District Schools in the Old Town Educational Complex. Our mission is to offer services to teen mothers to empower individuals to obtain skills and confidences to join the workforce, preschool readiness screenings as well as assisting parents in becoming their child's first teacher through HIPPY.

Since we live in a rural area, we find HIPPY seems to be a very positive step to promoting literacy into the homes. The families we served were all eligible for TANF funded services based on 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

We feel fortunate to have generated such an interest in our program. We have families come up to us daily in the grocery store, etc. and ask to join the program. Our parents consider it a privilege to be in this program as they have heard by word of mouth how it helps their children immensely. Our group meetings seem to average approximately a 70% turnout. Rarely, our families are not home and have to reschedule home visits. We have over 29 families on the waiting list.

Parent/Child Success Story

"Mrs. Hightower has a three-year-old in our program. She is a stay-at-home mom and has been very empowered by HIPPY in that we have seen a vast improvement in the amount of days she spends volunteering in her child's preschool classroom. When we first enrolled Mrs. Hightower, she was living in somewhat isolation. She kept an immaculate house and was a wonderful, caring mom. She just didn't get out much, and she didn't have any ties with the school or other parents. She has gained so much confidence after working in the HIPPY program. She has met many new friends. Through HIPPY, she also says she has gained confidence in being a part of the elementary school and is very involved in her child's progress in the classroom. She visits and volunteers on a regular basis. She began substitute teaching and has decided to get back to school to get her teaching credential. She has felt empowered just as the HIPPY goals aim to do for parents in the program. She is a prime example of a HIPPY success!!"

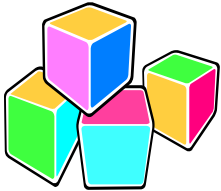
Kim Lander, HIPPY Coordinator

GAINESVILLE

WILLIAMS TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Alachua County

Year Program Started:	1998
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	50
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	41
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Williams Temple Church of God In Christ, Gainesville Sun Newspaper, and 100 Black Men of Gainesville

Program Overview

The Gainesville HIPYP program at Williams Temple is a home-based, preschool educational program that trains low income, TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) eligible parents to help their three, four-and five-year old children prepare for success in kindergarten and the classroom. HIPYP uses paraprofessional home visitors (“Parent Educators”) who are parents of three, four, and five-year old children, and a developmentally appropriate curriculum to teach parents through role playing how to teach their children. The method provides parents with the necessary skills, support, and training to become their child’s first teacher. Our program is augmented by monthly parent group meetings with special guest speakers and presenters, and bi-monthly educational/cultural fieldtrips.

Parent/Child Success Story

“School has not always been an enriching environment for this enthusiastic, inquisitive pre-kindergarten student. Since starting HIPYP, John Willis’ mom, Mrs. Boykins, says ‘working at home better prepares him for what they are doing in class. By completing his lesson packets, John feels smarter because they allow him to both recognize and share what he knows.”

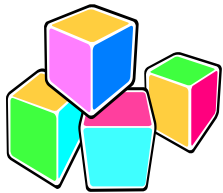
Harriet Stafford, Home Visitor

JACKSONVILLE

DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Duval County

Year Program Started:	1998
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	56
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	46
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Advisory committee members

Program Overview

The Jacksonville HIPPIY Program in the Duval County Public Schools was initially implemented in the 1997-1998 academic year. Currently, this program offers services to children and families in center-based school sites with added home visits and family group meetings. Every year the program screens HIPPIY children with the Battelle Developmental Screening Inventory for pre and post-developmental evaluations. The program also screens all of our school-based HIPPIY children. The program serves Even Start Family Literacy/Florida First Start participants as well as individual families with weekly group meetings and home visits.

Parent/Child Success Story

“My daughters love HIPPIY. It is a fun way for us to spend time together. My oldest, Abby graduated from HIPPIY last year. She is now a first grader at Love Grove Elementary School. She has been placed in a second grade reading class because she is so talented. I believe that our involvement with HIPPIY has contributed to her success. My other daughter, Ashley is loving kindergarten. I am sure she will also be very successful in school.”

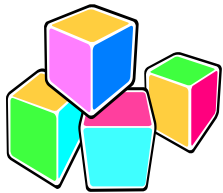
Pagen Huey, HIPPIY Parent

MIAMI

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dade County

Year Program Started:	1986
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	272
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	224
Funding Sources: Title I and others	



Collaborative Partnerships: University of Miami, Urban League, Head Start, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Program Overview

The Miami-Dade HIPPY program is the second largest in the State of Florida. The program is funded through Title I funds and is implemented through Dade County Public Schools. The program employees are all part of the Dade County Public system and thereby benefit from a number of additional services available to HIPPY Community Involvement Specialists and parents. To date, all 20 paraprofessionals are able to pursue either their *GED*'s or post-secondary education. Five former paraprofessionals have received their bachelors degrees and are currently teachers in Miami-Dade Public Schools.

Parent/Child Success Story

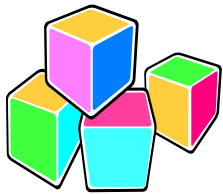
Naomi Wiggins is the mother of four children, one of whom completed the HIPPY program. Mrs. Wiggins joined HIPPY in 1985 with her youngest child, David Patterson. He has traveled extensively demonstrating his virtuoso musical talents, even for the First Lady. David is attending Tennessee State University to pursue a career in law and music. Mrs. Wiggins is currently working towards an Associate of Arts Degree in Education at Miami-Dade Community College, North Campus.

HIPPY Community Involvement Specialist

NORTH LAUDERDALE FAMILY CENTRAL, INC.

Broward County

Year Program Started:	1994
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	142
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	125
Funding Sources: Children Services Council of Broward County, City of Lauderhill and Hollywood, and Florida Partnership for School Readiness	



Collaborative Partnerships: Broward County School Board, Broward County Commission, and National Council of Jewish Women (NCCJ) in Hollywood, University, Gold Coast and Plantation Sections, Broward School Readiness Coalition, South Regional Family Success Center, Martin Luther King Elementary School, the Mitchell Moore Resource Center, Staywell Health Plan of Florida, Humana Insurance

Program Overview

The Family Central, Inc. HIPPY Program started in October 1994. The Program provides services to families of three, four, and five-year old children in the Broward and Miami/Dade Counties. The program serves families from diverse ethnic backgrounds, which include Haitian, Hispanic, Black (non-Hispanic), and Caucasian. The staff includes - one Coordinator, one Assistant Coordinator and nine part-time Home Visitors.

The *Bowdoin Method of Effective Parenting, and Positive Parenting* is used during Group Meetings to comply with the Parent Education component of each contract. The curriculum supports the HIPPY philosophy and includes materials that help parents meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of their children. Each meeting includes games, activities, and role-playing that promote a fun, hands-on learning environment for the parents. Each lesson is accompanied by a 10-12 minute video, and each parent leaves with a 20-35 page book designed to reinforce the main points of the lesson.

Parent/Child Success Story

“My name is Dana S. Palloo, Jr. I started HIPPY when I was four. Ms. Audrey visited our home to bring and explain the work. I had lots of fun coloring, reading, and doing other activities. When I started kindergarten, I was ahead of the class work because of the activities in HIPPY. I’ve always been an honor roll student, and I received the Sun Sentinel award for the best character in fourth grade.

Presently, I am in the sixth grade, and I am in the 8th grade GEM math program (gifted education math). Now that my mom is the assistant coordinator, I repay my learning by helping at the group meetings when I attend. This is a great program. I salute HIPPY for helping me in school.”

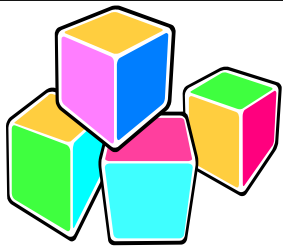
HIPPY Graduate

OCALA

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marion County

Year Program Started:	1999
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	66
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	60
Funding Sources: Title I and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Childhood Development Services, Even Start, Florida Department of Corrections, and Marion County

Program Overview

The Ocala HIPPY Program was established in October 1999 and is located at the Howard Academy Community. Currently, the HIPPY office is staffed by four employees: a Coordinator and three home visitors. The program's mission is to empower parents as primary educators of their children in the home and foster parent involvement that maximizes the chances of successful early experiences for their children. Twice a month, home visitors who are parents themselves visit HIPPY parents in their homes to role play the HIPPY curriculum activity packets. The activity packets focus on language development, problem solving, and perceptual discrimination skills. Activities take as little as fifteen minutes a day for the parent and child to complete. Eligibility is based on the child's age and target population. A child must be four years old by August 1 and live in College Park, Reddick-Collier, Fessenden, Oakcrest, and Wyomia school attendance zones.

Parent/Child Success Story

"My name is Deborah Gaj. I am very thankful for the HIPPY program because it helped my daughter, Rose. It enhanced her skills in story comprehension, problem solving, independent thinking, and language development. As a result of this wealth of information, my daughter was accepted in the Gifted Program. I highly recommend the HIPPY Program to all the parents of preschool children."

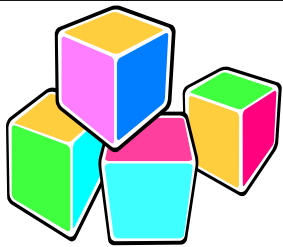
Deborah Gaj, HIPPY Parent

PALATKA

CHILD CARE RESOURCES

Putnam County

Year Program Started:	1999
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	41
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	36
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness	



Collaborative Partnerships: School Boards, School Readiness Coalitions, Head Start

Program Overview

Child Care Resources, Inc. (CCR) is a private, non-profit organization serving families, children, early care, and childhood education professionals in Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, and Putnam counties. Since 1970, the organization has been dedicated to promoting quality childcare and work/family solutions throughout North Central Florida. CCR staff, volunteers, and community partners provide comprehensive services for families with children from birth through age 12. The agency actively participates in school readiness initiatives, such as HIPPY, that seek to ensure our youngest citizens receive care that capitalizes on their learning potential, adequately prepares them for school, and provides linkage to other services, such as health care. The HIPPY coordinator is supported and housed in an agency with an emphasis on resources and referral to support parents with quality childcare and school readiness.

Home Visitor Success Story

“Marie Miller goes above and beyond the qualifications in performance of a home visitor. She gives her whole self to a task. I find the quality I admire the most in Marie is her personality. She is a people person. Her love and compassion shows towards her HIPPY children and parents. Marie is a true success to the HIPPY program.”

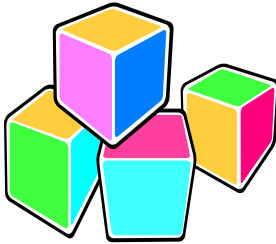
Venus McRae, HIPPY Coordinator

SARASOTA

SARASOTA FAMILY YMCA

Sarasota County

Year Program Started:	1992
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	96
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	86
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and other community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Sarasota YMCA, Even Start, Sarasota Housing Authority Venice Housing Complex, Girl Scouts, and National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)

Program Overview

Sarasota HIPPY was implemented in November 1992 as a joint project of the National Council of Jewish Women Sarasota-Manatee Section and the Sarasota Family YMCA. The Sarasota HIPPY program is located in the Janie Poe Community Center of the Sarasota Housing Projects surrounded by the Newtown Community in North Sarasota. The program expanded to Venice (South Sarasota County) in 1995 and North Port, Englewood, and Laurel communities in 1997. The program also serves the Hispanic population in Sarasota County. HIPPY Sarasota and the Even Start program of the YMCA work closely together to bring GED and ASPIRE programs to the Janie Poe facility. HIPPY home visitors help in the on-site Day Care for Even Start. The Sarasota HIPPY program celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October 2002. Former HIPPY Families were recognized with gifts, and highlights on the progress of the children, including the oldest being in 10th grade and those who were honor roll kids, were cited.

Parent Success Story

“I was introduced to the HIPPY Program in 1995. I was in a place where I was not proud of myself and had very low self-esteem. My home visitor at that time was very patient and compassionate. She believed in me when I did not believe in myself. After a few visits, I realized I had the potential to teach my own children at home. In teaching my children, I was teaching myself as well. I became more aware that I was somebody. I realized that watching the soaps and drinking all day was a waste of valuable time, that I could make a difference.”

“The door opened for me to become part of the HIPPY staff. I have helped many parents realize that they can teach their own children. Through HIPPY I have been clean and sober, my self-esteem has improved, and I have become a better parent. I’ve attended a community college with an A average. I was approved by Habitat for Humanity to build my own house in October 2000. I am a proud member of the choir, and I can sing with an uplifted voice. I joined HIPPY, I was a nobody, now I am a **SOME-BODY!**”

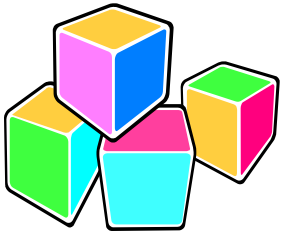
Lisa, former HIPPY Parent and home visitor

STARKE

BRADFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bradford County

Year Program Started:	2000
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	47
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	28
Funding Sources: Even Start, Pre-K, Florida First State, and Florida Partnership for School Readiness	



Collaborative Partnerships: Florida First Start, Even Start, Teen Parent Program, and Pre-K

Program Overview

Starke HIPPY started in 2000-2001 with funds from a State Department of Education Reading Initiative Grant and Pre-K Early Intervention to support 38 children from 36 families using four home visitors. The School Board of Bradford County is the implementing agency for this HIPPY Program in Starke, Florida. Starke houses the largest population in Bradford County. Bradford County is a small, rural area located in the Northeast corner of Florida. One of the major employers is the Florida Department of Corrections. In 2002-2003, the HIPPY Program moved from being administered under the School Board's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction to the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department. When this move occurred, the home visitor staff was retained; a new coordinator was hired. The program is now housed at the Rainbow Center. A major advantage for this program is the collaborative opportunities with other programs administered by the school board for children birth to five.

Parent/Child Success Story

"My son participated in HIPPY at the ages of four and five. When we began HIPPY, I had no idea what I needed to teach my child, what I needed to look out for, things he should have known by age four, or how to find out. Thanks to HIPPY, we have come a long way. Jacob is now in the second grade and is eight years old. Jacob is an A-B honor role student and on a third grade reading level. Any difficulties Jacob had were identified at an early age and are still being worked with. It is amazing what 15 minutes a day, five days a week will do for a child. Not only did HIPPY prepare Jacob for school, it also helped at home too. HIPPY taught Jacob how to be able to sit and do homework, how to cut and color and play in a lot of different ways. HIPPY also taught me how important it is for children to play, color, cut and just be children!! So from us HIPPYs up in Starke, A BIG THANK YOU!!!!".

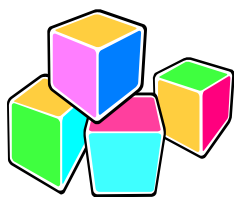
Former HIPPY Parent

TAMPA

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, INC.

Hillsborough County

Year Program Started:	1991
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	49
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	38
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, Tampa Housing Authority, National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), Junior League of Tampa Bay, Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), and The American Jewish Committee

Program Overview

The first HIPPY program in Tampa, Florida began in October 1991 and served 50 families from one public housing community and was funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. A renovated house was donated by the Tampa Housing Authority and served as the program office. In 1993 the program added a family support component employing a full-time case manager, program assistant, and four parent educators. In 1994, in collaboration with the University of South Florida, the Florida Children's Forum, and Hillsborough County Even Start, the Center secured Title IV federal funds to open new HIPPY programs and establish the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center. Services were then expanded to two, migrant communities, Meacham Elementary School, and other housing communities in the Tampa Bay area. Additional funding from the Florida Department of Education allowed the Center to offer a HIPPY plus project called HIPPYReads in 1998 which provided more reading materials and instruction to families. Support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Conn Memorial Foundation, Allegany Franciscan Foundation, and Citigroup, Inc. (Citibank) help the Center expand services throughout Tampa. Today, HIPPY is working with 50 children in the University Community Area, employs a fulltime coordinator, and three home visitors.

Home Visitor Success Story

“I love working as a parent educator for the HIPPY program. It prepared me for a career in customer service. HIPPY was my first real job where I felt that I was really making a difference helping people. HIPPY really helped me not only with my employability skills but with my communication skills and definitely boosted by self-confidence. I am now employed as a customer service supervisor, and I love my job. I have the HIPPY program and the staff at the Center of Excellence to thank for my job successes and the academic success of my three children (all HIPPY graduates) through the years.”

Merrilee Torres-McKnight, Former Parent/Home Visitor

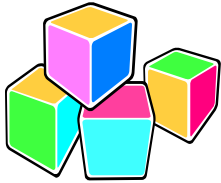
WEST PALM BEACH

Belle Glade

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES

Palm Beach County

Year Program Started:	1994
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	123
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	118
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Children Services Council, Board of County Commissioners, and others	



Collaborative Partnerships: National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), Palm Beach Housing Authority, Church related activity-Back-to-School-Bash, Representation on School Readiness Coalition, John Marcus: Sac-it-to-you-Back Packs, Beacon Centers

Program Overview

This program serves over 100 families in the Glades Area and is located in the western part of Palm Beach County, Florida, in a small Tri-Area called the Glades area. The Glades area is composed of the following three geographical cities: Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee. The Glades is a very unique and distinctive place to work and live. Most of the residents make their living primarily from working in the farming and the sugar industries. The program serves a diverse population, including Blacks, Hispanics, and Haitians.

Parent/Child Success Story

“I am a parent who tends to be very concerned about my child’s education. HIPPY has been a great help to my child. My son, Keydron Josey, age 5, has improved in so many areas of learning. His writing, vocabulary, and cognitive skills are being developed and even now he is doing well in school. (He is so very eager to learn). I am excited about taking those few minutes a day to work with my child and to see him just as enthused.”

HIPPY Parent

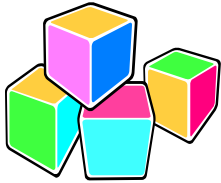
WEST PALM BEACH

Boca Delray

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES

Palm Beach County

Year Program Started:	1998
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	47
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	45
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Children Services Council, and other community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), Dixie Manor, Village Academy, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, New Pines Neighborhood Community Center, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, and Kiwanis Center for Family Services

Program Overview

HIPPY is being implemented in Boca Raton Housing Authority (Dixie Manor, Boca Isles East), Delray Beach Housing Authority (Carver Estates), and New Pines Neighborhood. All are low-income, subsidized housing communities. HIPPY is funded through Children Services Council to provide in-home instruction to economically disadvantaged families. HIPPY provides support meetings and quarterly family activities.

Home Visitor Success Story

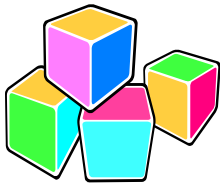
“A grandmother of 21, a mother of seven. A woman who has gone up against many odds and has always been there for her family. This caring, hard-working home visitor is Anita Edwards. Ms. Edwards is a recent recipient of a Habitat for Humanity award. She has been a home visitor for four years and despite many of the obstacles which she has faced, still manages to hold down two part-time jobs, care for her family, volunteer, and participate in her children’s lives”.

Jongelene Adams, Coordinator

WEST PALM BEACH Lake Worth

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES Palm Beach County

Year Program Started:	1993
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	137
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	120
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Children Services Council, Board of County Commissioners, and others	



Collaborative Partnerships: Urban League, Multicultural Center, West Palm Beach Library, and Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition

Program Overview

The Lake Worth HIPYP program is under the Center for Family Services, which is funded by Children Services Council, and United Way. The Center for Family Services has five HIPYP sites in Palm Beach County with five coordinators. The Lake Worth HIPYP site is one of these sites. Lake Worth, FL has a large population of Hispanics and Haitians in the community. HIPYP serves 85% Hispanics, 5% White, 5% Black and 5% Haitians. The Lake Worth HIPYP site geographically serves four elementary schools with one of those schools being a Beacon site. A Beacon site is a program within the school that serves the community with educational classes, such as computers, parenting, second languages classes, and runs the after school program.

Parent/Children Success Story

“Luz Perez has been in the program for six years. She is the mother of two girls who have successfully completed the program. Luz goes out of her way to help the coordinator and other home visitors with whatever is needed. During the maternity leave of the coordinator, she took full charge of the program and at the same time she was working during the day. Since she has been in the program, Luz has completed and received certificates in computers and early childhood workshops. She began working for the school district in the front office of South Grade Elementary. She is the eyes and ears of the Lake Worth HIPYP site.”

Mary Rodriguez, Coordinator

WEST PALM BEACH

Pleasant City

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES

Palm Beach County

Year Program Started:	1993
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	132
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	121
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Children Services Council, Board of County Commissioners, and others	



Collaborative Partnerships: Urban League, Multicultural Center, West Palm Beach Library, and Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition

Program Overview

The Pleasant City HIPPY site started in 1993 under the School District of Palm Beach County. In 2000, the program site was administered by the Center for Family Services, Inc., a family service and support agency. The Center for Family Services (CFS) oversees five different HIPPY sites with five coordinators in Palm Beach County. The mission of the Center for Family Services is "to preserve and strengthen individual and family life through professional, affordable counseling and other services. The agency promotes the physical, emotional and social well being of families, children, and adults, and assists them in developing their own capacities to sustain satisfying lives". The HIPPY Director, DeMarchia Gibson is a former HIPPY Coordinator from the Roosevelt Service Center site. The Pleasant City HIPPY program site is housed at the Multicultural Center in Pleasant City and serves the Pleasant City and Riviera Beach areas. This HIPPY site has provided HIPPY families with links to the community primarily through group meetings by offering trainings and information sessions on breast cancer awareness, entrepreneurship, TOYS FOR TOTS give-away, back-to-school bash, book drive, free AIDS awareness and Kindergarten round-up.

Child Success Story

"Patrice Walker is four-years-old and began the HIPPY program last year. She lives with her grandmother during the week and lives with her mother on the weekend. Patrice desires to be with her siblings, but she is unable to because her mother works during the day and attends school at night. Patrice is very busy trying to do and play whatever her older brothers are playing and doing. All her brothers except the new baby are older than she, and she desperately wants to play games like hide and seek and color with them. They often tell her "when you get bigger" or "you do not know how to play". This frustrated Patrice so her grandmother enrolled her in the HIPPY program where she has learned how to play games like Chutes and Ladders, coloring contests, and most of all her favorite, bingo. Patrice is very proud of herself and now challenges her brothers to wrestling matches. Now HIPPY cannot assist Patrice with her wrestling moves, but it sure feels good to know a four-year old is being motivated to learn by the influence of siblings."

Shilondra Sheppard, Coordinator

WEST PALM BEACH Roosevelt Service Center

CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES

Palm Beach County

Year Program Started:	1997
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	65
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	72
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness, Children Services Council, and other community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), Roosevelt Service Center (RSC), Urban League, Child Outreach, Inc.

Program Overview

The Center for Family Services (CFS) is the implementing agency for the Palm Beach County Program (five sites). The mission of the CFS is "to preserve and strengthen individual and family life through professional, affordable counseling, and other services. The agency promotes the physical, emotional, and social well-being of families, children, and adults and assists them in developing their own capacities to sustain satisfying lives." This HIPPY Program site is one of five sites of the Palm Beach County HIPPY Program. It is located in West Palm Beach at the Roosevelt Service Center. There is one fulltime coordinator and five part-time home visitors. Presentations at PTO's are given where the community is informed about the HIPPY Program and families are recruited. Group meetings include guest speakers who can offer something to the HIPPY families.

In January 2003, this site held an event for Martin Luther King's Day. The guest speaker was a social studies teacher who had marched with Dr. King and told amazing stories that kept both parents and children interested. This site keeps abreast of community agencies and community services in order to keep HIPPY parents informed of services available. There is much support from the school principal and the area superintendent who are also members of the advisory committee. The other advisory committee members are also very supportive and help in any way they can.

Child Success Story

"Dorothy has been a parent with the HIPPY program for over five years. She has had two children graduate from the program and currently has three enrolled. Dorothy is a mother of seven and has struggled very hard to raise her family. Dorothy and her kids lived with her mother for many years, but the encouragement she received from her home visitor motivated her to get a full-time job, to go back to school to study nursing, and to provide a home just for her children. She is doing well, and the kids have enjoyed having their own home. Dorothy and the children love HIPPY and are extremely grateful that HIPPY is in their lives."

Michele Jackson, Coordinator

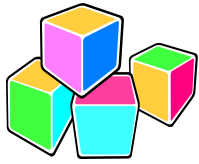
1601 N. Tamarind Avenue, West Palm Beach FL 33407

WINTER HAVEN

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES, INC.

Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties

Year Program Started:	1997
Number of Children Served in 2003-2004:	27
Number of Families Served in 2003-2004:	23
Funding Sources: Florida Partnership for School Readiness and community resources	



Collaborative Partnerships: Highlands County School Readiness Coalition, City of Lakeland Housing Authority, Healthy Families, Polk County School Board, RCMA, Avon Park Housing Authority, Family Fundamentals, and ECR Social Services

Program Overview

The Winter Haven HIPPY program (formally Lakeland HIPPY Program) is implemented by Early Childhood Resources, Inc. (ECR), a private, not-for-profit agency that serving a two-county area of central Florida: Highlands county and sections of Polk county. ECR has experience in providing services for families, children, and child care providers. ECR serves as a central agency for school readiness; developed and implemented a charter high school (STAR High School) focusing on pregnant teens, teen mothers, and at-risk teens; provides training and in-service to child care professionals; provides parenting classes; administers the state food program; acts as the Resource and Referral agency for Highlands and Hardee counties; provides subsidized child care for homeless families; administers an Even Start program in Hardee county; owns and directly operates child care programs; and operates a satellite child care training program.

Parent/Children Success Story

Elizabeth Wilson, parent of HIPPY child Deandre, so impressed the HIPPY team with her contagious enthusiasm for the program, that she was offered a home visitor position. She said, "As a parent, I learned from HIPPY HOW to teach my children; how to break it down; how to demonstrate for them and how to use a positive tone when I talked to them. It helped me be a better parent. (The best part is when you see the kids learning!)" .As a home visitor, Elisabeth was able to enhance her personal, social, professional, and office skills. The combination of enthusiasm, skills, community knowledge, and professional demeanor helped Elisabeth secure a full-time position with the city Housing Authority Office."

Elizabeth Wilson, Former Parent/Home Visitor

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OCALA

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PALATKA

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STARKE

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TAMPA

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Center of Excellence, Inc.
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WEST PALM BEACH

BELLE GLADE SITE

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BOCA/DELRAY SITE

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PLEASANT CITY SITE

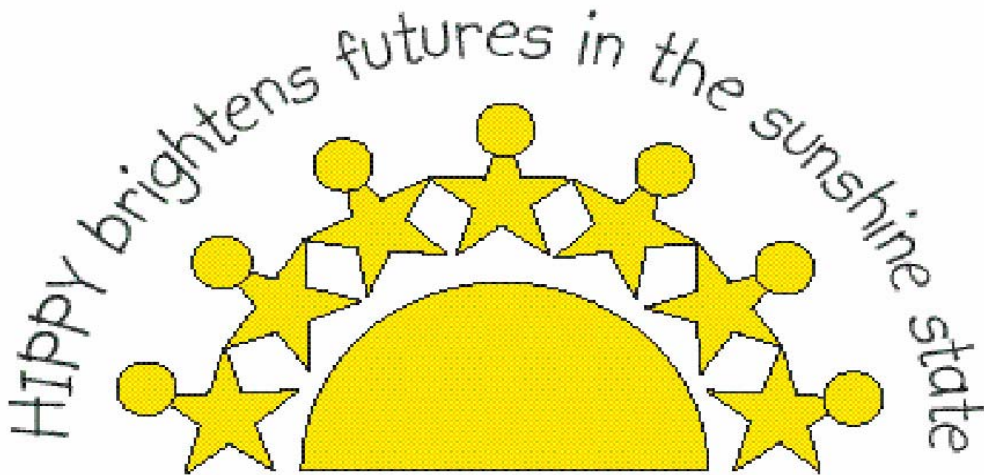
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ROOSEVELT SERVICE CENTER SITE

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WINTER HAVEN

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Florida HIPPY is a partnership between local school districts, children and family services agencies, University of South Florida, Florida Partnership for School Readiness, and HIPPY USA.

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