Statement Regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19)  

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency regarding the evolving public health event surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, also referred to as COVID-19. Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) USA released this statement of action in response to this national event.

With the ever-evolving public health event surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19), HIPPY USA serves as an advocate, sounding board, and thought partner with our affiliate programs and staff members who are feeling the direct impact at ground level. We consider our role to be a conduit for information sharing through a national support network that fosters continuity of services for our families while maintaining the efficacy of the HIPPY model.

Our short-term plan of action is to help our program leaders adapt to the changing environment, even as circumstances change daily. This will include maintaining regular communication with our state lead agencies and local implementing agencies (LIAs), federal agencies and partners, funders, and our international network of HIPPY organizations. We are responding to individual requests from our affiliates and other constituencies and offering timely and accurate information that can be shared throughout our network. Key elements of our short-term plan include:

- Hosting regular conference calls with affiliates and with state offices;
- Disseminating guidance to our network and stakeholders through hippyusa.org, E-blasts and social media;
- Providing specific guidance for our home visiting network, including alternate instruction methods;
- Surveying our affiliates for feedback to develop our future communications and programmatic agenda; and
- Creating an accessible repository for information sharing among our program staff.

Included in this memorandum are guiding and supplemental documents, including our current FAQ, organizational resources, and parent resources to support our network during this national emergency.

We are taking every opportunity to stay informed and to share information as it becomes available. We also understand that information and guidance may be specific and uniquely applicable to certain communities and states in the coming weeks. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our program leaders and staff stay abreast of the latest information and adhere to the guidance and direction of their state and local health officials and leaders.

The HIPPY USA National Office will continue to update information in the days ahead. Please direct questions or inquiries to Shanta Nunn-Baro, Director of Development and Outreach, at the HIPPY USA National Office, 501.537.7726.
Keeping HIPPY Families and Staff Engaged During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Emergency

1. Discontinue In-Person Home Visits and Group Meetings
   Safety first! Due to the severity of this public health event continuing in-person home visits is not recommended at this time. All programs should refer to health and safety guidelines from their state and local health officials.

2. Stay Connected with Families
   Check-in and remote visits are strongly encouraged during this time. Our families will benefit from consistent communication. Programs can determine what works for their community, utilizing video conferencing, mailing packets, dropping off materials, and making calls. These same tools are perfect to keep home visitors connected for work.

3. Stay Informed and Share Resources
   Programs are encouraged to review past lessons with families, utilize the extension activities within the curriculum, and share other resources with families to support positive interaction time with their children. HIPPY USA will share lessons online via its website as well as share extension resources via social media. Updates will be posted frequently.

4. Help Parents Talk to Their Children
   We have never experienced anything like this in our country before. Children will ask questions, and they need answers from their first, great teacher. Help parents and caregivers have these conversations with great kid-friendly resources. Also, check out HIPPY USA's website for tips to help families plan daily schedules and indoor activities.

5. Document Your Work
   By documenting your work, HIPPY has an opportunity to learn how to reach more families in new and creative ways. HIPPY USA supports programs in serving families through various remote methods. Documenting your work is also important to illustrate how we continued to serve families thanks to AmeriCorps, education cooperatives, school districts, universities, and other private, state and federally funded programs.

6. Seek Funding Opportunities Diligently
   No community, industry, or group is beyond the scope of this public health crisis. Funders and philanthropists want to assist programs with our mission of serving families. Watch for emergency support opportunities and check out our resource updates weekly.

7. Think Creatively and Share Feedback with HIPPY USA
   HIPPY plans to survey our programs and to hold regular information sharing calls with state leaders. It's important for HIPPY USA to stay connected with all of you and for you to stay connected with your families, home visitors, coordinators, state leaders, and support staff. Host state and regional webinars. Join our webinars and let HIPPY USA help you stay connected and informed.

8. Know That We Trust You To Do Great Work
   As we evolve into our new normal, keep in mind that we will return to home visits and group meetings. Nothing that happens in the next few months will erase the value and importance of our model and its effectiveness. Likewise, no one should be concerned that these temporary changes will be viewed negatively by HIPPY USA or that implementing these changes will threaten a program’s accreditation.

9. Show Appreciation With Your HIPPY Heart
   HIPPY USA supports you as you make the decisions that work for your programs, your staff, and your families in your communities. We appreciate all of you and everything you do for our families, and we encourage you to use this time to remind your staff and your state, program, and organization leaders how much you appreciate them, too. Stay idle and stay well.

Check out resources at HIPPYUSA.org

Release Date: March 16, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 9:00am</td>
<td>Wake up</td>
<td>Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put PJ's in laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Morning walk</td>
<td>Family walk with the dog</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga if it's raining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Academic time</td>
<td>NO ELECTRONICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sodoku books, flash cards, study guide, Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>Creative time</td>
<td>Legos, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play music, cook or bake, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>A- wipe all kitchen table and chairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B - wipe all door handles, light switches, and desk tops.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C - Wipe both bathrooms - sinks and toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>Chore time</td>
<td>Reading, puzzles, nap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:30</td>
<td>Quiet time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30-4:00</td>
<td>Academic time</td>
<td>ELECTRONICS OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ipad games, Prodigy, Educational show</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-5:00</td>
<td>Afternoon fresh air</td>
<td>Bikes, Walk the dog, play outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-6:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-8:00</td>
<td>Free TV time</td>
<td>Kid showers x3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Bedtime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00PM</td>
<td>Bedtime</td>
<td>All kids who follow the daily schedule &amp; don't fight</td>
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</table>
FAQs Shared from HIPPY USA

This list of FAQs provides answers to some of the common questions posed to the HIPPY USA National Office since the start of the national state of emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic.

This document is informational only. Programs should use this document only as a point of reference for the creation of their community-specific responses. All programs are strongly encouraged to give deference to the guidelines and directives from their state and local health officials.

Can home visits still be conducted during this national public health event?
No. Practice safety first. Due to the severity of this public health event and the significant number of school closures, completing in-person home visits and group meetings is not recommended at this time. HIPPY USA strongly advises programs to adhere to guidance from state and local health officials and to err on the side of caution if you are unsure about what to do.

Has the HIPPY USA National Office approved any alternatives to in-person home visits for HIPPY programs?
Yes. HIPPY staff and families can engage in “Check-In” sessions and remote visit options to stay connected with their families and to maintain the established peer-to-peer relationship.

- Because HIPPY in-person home visits are not recommended at this time, HIPPY program leaders should consider all safe and feasible modifications for family support and program delivery.
- Through this transitional period, we believe the most important focus should be for our staff to support each other and our families with resources that help us:
  - Stay safe and informed;
  - Stay engaged by using available and applicable tools (i.e. phone, video, etc.);
  - Stay calm and support each other; and
  - Share resources, ideas, and information within the network to continue to serve our families.

Can the curriculum be dropped off with the family and role-play activities be done virtually or through a phone call?
Yes. If this is a safe option for home visitors, then dropping off the weekly curriculum may be a good option. Considering the current public health event, state offices and programs may choose this option until in-person visits can resume. HIPPY USA plans to make electronic copies available for programs to assist with ease in distribution. Anticipated available date: March 20, 2020.

Should HIPPY programs discontinue group meetings with parents?
Yes. During this national public health event, we strongly recommend discontinuing in-person group meetings in light of potential exposure to the virus and the risk of serious illness.

Should programs discontinue staff meetings?
Most likely, yes. However, any changes to daily operations must be made within the organization, school district, university, or host entity for the HIPPY program.

Will our program be viewed negatively if we don’t conduct in-person home visits?

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shanta Nunn-Baro at the national office at 501.537.7726 or sbaro@hippyusa.org. Last update: Monday, March 16, 2020, 10:45 pm.
FAQs Shared from HIPPY USA

No. HIPPY programs will not be penalized for not conducting in-person home visits. We encourage all programs to contact your families as a courtesy to answer questions, address concerns, and establish expectations going forward and the next steps. Remember, safety first.

Can a family refuse a home visit?
Yes, and we will always respect their decision. All in-person, home visits should be discontinued.

Will sites be viewed negatively if they choose to cancel a general or accreditation site visit?
No. These visits will be rescheduled at another time in conjunction with the HIPPY USA National Office and the National Trainer.

Should masks or gloves be worn when in-person visits resume?
HIPPY USA strongly recommends discontinuing in-person home visits at this time. Everyone should follow the guidance and directives from your state and local health officials in making this determination.

Is guidance available regarding the use of materials for activities and role-play in the wake of the coronavirus?
Yes. Programs are encouraged to review past lessons with families, utilize the extension activities within the curriculum, and share other resources with families to support healthy discussions about the coronavirus as well as ways to foster positive interaction time with their children. There are many resources available, including Hands-On, a website with indoor activities specifically for preschool children. HIPPY USA will also post additional resources on its website weekly.

What if our organization does not have a crisis communication nor a contingency plan? Do you have any suggestions or examples?
Yes. While many of our affiliates, such as school districts, have plans in place, others may not or they may wish to enhance their current plans. Online, you will discover a wealth of resources such as Nonprofit HR and SHRM that provide step-by-step guides and templates for organizations.

Is there one good starting place with resources for families that are at home with older children?
Yes. Check out Share My Lesson and, of course, the HIPPY USA website.

Are there any early childhood resources about the coronavirus that you can share?
Yes. Children and families will have many questions and concerns about the coronavirus and the events unfolding in our country right now. Sharing information with parents about how to talk with their children about the coronavirus will be important to help calm fears, especially from misinformation.

HIPPY USA recommends the National Institution for Early Education Research that hosts a list of curated links geared toward early childhood education’s response to this public health crisis. See additional resources by visiting the HIPPY USA website for more information about our response and guidance for HIPPY programs.