

Investing in the future **FAMILIES: THE VITAL LINK** HIPPYUSA FLORIDA

Fall 2005

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Research + Success = Sustainability

Welcome Back to Another Year of HIPY

By: Mary Lindsey, Ph.D., State Director



I realize that the summer has been both exciting and tragic for some of our HIPY programs. Our prayers go out to all the members of our HIPY families that are attempting to recover from devastating hurricanes and tropical storms. I know that we will all be relieved as soon as this hurricane season comes to an end. In spite of our troubles, we are looking

forward to another rewarding and fruitful HIPY year for our children and families.

During this year, we will highlight how to use research and program successes to build sustainability.

This past year Florida HIPY research and evaluation results helped us shake our routine ways of thinking and acting, opened up new possibilities, and helped Florida HIPY programs realize their full potential. It has been challenging to stand on the outside of our programs and look at what is happening within, but this reflective process has provided new opportunities to learn and improve services to children and families. Thus, our research project for 2005-06 is a longitudinal study that measures the behavioral and academic skills of HIPY children that are enrolled in Kindergarten and first grade.

We are well aware that federal, state, and local program funders are focusing on school readiness for preschool children and academic achievement among school-aged children. This is not surprising since early intervention is a cost-effective strategy to change or ameliorate problems identified during the preschool period. Children who enter school not yet ready to learn continue to have difficulties later in life. Working with parents and their children establishes positive behaviors that persist throughout the child's life. Previous Florida HIPY research findings suggest that HIPY programs are preparing children for kindergarten,

meaning they have acquired academic skills needed for school success, such as vocabulary size, familiarity with the alphabet and books, basic counting, classification as well as social and emotional skills. We believe that HIPY has positive effects well beyond the kindergarten year on numerous outcomes such as school suspensions, grades, classroom behavior, and achievement test scores. We will look to our longitudinal study results to see if Florida HIPY children are prepared for school success in Kindergarten and beyond.



Florida HIPY Longitudinal Study Fall 2005

By: Marsha Black, Ph.D., Researcher

The Impact of the HIPY Program on School Performance

The Florida HIPY State Office in partnership with the early childhood researchers at the University of South Florida is launching a three-year, multi-site longitudinal evaluation focusing on HIPY children's academic outcomes from kindergarten to third grade in Fall, 2005. Previous Florida HIPY research has identified how parents and their children have benefited from participation in the HIPY program. These parent-report data are **the perceived effects of HIPY** or the benefits from participation in the HIPY program that the parents themselves identify. More objective measures of program effectiveness are **the observed effects of program participation** or the results obtained by using objective measures such as standardized test scores and neutral data collection strategies such as outcome variables in a school district data system.

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HIPPY Brightens Futures

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Background of the study

Results from a telephone survey conducted in 2004 with parents participating in HIPPY programs in Florida showed that when compared to children in a national sample, HIPPY children appeared to be acquiring greater pre-academic skills. More HIPPY children than children in the national sample can recognize all letters of the alphabet, count to 20, write their first name, and read or pretend to read on their own. Additional subgroup analyses by child age, parent income and child's primary language further supported these findings.

Purpose of the study

This study is being conducted to determine the impact of the HIPPY program on school performance. The current study addresses a wide array of outcomes (kindergarten school readiness, classroom grades, achievement test scores, class rank: numerical position and percentile, grade promotion status, school attendance, and disciplinary/referral/action, and follows children for three consecutive years.

Sample

The sample will consist of HIPPY children attending kindergarten in September 2004 and HIPPY children attending kindergarten in September 2005 in seven Florida County School Districts: Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Duval, Marion, Putnam, and Sarasota.



Study Procedures

The Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center will work with the local HIPPY programs to identify eligible children. Programs will submit the list of eligible children (name, current address, SS#) and a copy of the signed USF IRB approved parent permission form to the school district. The school district will forward the data to the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center at the University of South Florida. The identifying information will then be removed and forwarded to the researcher for analyses.

My Journey with HIPPY 1989-2005

By: Earl R. Young, Coordinator
Gainesville HIPPY at Williams Temple

My journey with HIPPY has been a long and diverse set of educational experiences starting with my first exposure to the concept in the summer of 1987. At that time, I was the Executive Director of the Gainesville/Alachua County Center of Excellence (COE), a local K-12 educational program located in Gainesville. I was on a trip to New York City seeking funds and resource development ideas from foundations. The Ford Foundation was my primary target and the program officer that I had established rapport with loved the COE model. She inquired if our program, which operated in housing projects, could incorporate a preschool component. When I excitedly answered in the affirmative, she picked up the telephone and arranged an appointment for me to meet with a representative of the National Council of Jewish Women (New York City) that was collaborating with the Ford Foundation for international support for HIPPY in Israel. I was fascinated by the HIPPY concept because my greatest dilemma with the COE was gaining effective parent involvement.

In 1989, I was offered and accepted the position of Statewide Coordinator of the Centers of Excellence. It required that my wife and I move to Tampa—the headquarters of the Centers of Excellence located at the Florida Education Fund (FEF). I was then in a position to share my excitement about HIPPY with the network of Center of Excellence directors. Dr. Mary Lindsey, my colleague in Tampa and the Hillsborough County COE Director, was the first to take advantage of the HIPPY resource. I strongly recommended HIPPY as a new program to add to system of services. We also identified the newly created Children's Board of Hillsborough County as a potential funder for the program.

Mary and I then visited the Miami HIPPY program which was the first and oldest program in the state. Following Mary's growing interest and excitement, I arranged a conference call to HIPPY USA and introduced Mary to Miriam Westheimer, the HIPPY USA Director.

The Spring of 1991 brought about many changes. Mary's program arranged for me to attend HIPPY Pre-

In The Sunshine State



service Training in Little Rock, Arkansas. This training enhanced my knowledge and skills as an Independent Consultant/Trainer to the Hillsborough County Center of Excellence. My attendance at the training event was fortuitous as I met (face-to-face) and established a rapport with Miriam. This contact with Miriam generated a collaborative consultant relationship for the next year. During this time, I provided technical assistance to the National Office by identifying and describing innovative program initiatives operating around the country.

My consultant work with HIPPY resulted in my becoming the National Director of Training Development from 1992-1994. I was responsible for developing and coordinating paraprofessional social services training throughout the national network within 18 states.

In 1998, under my leadership of the organization "100 Black Men of Greater Gainesville", I wrote a grant to the Gainesville Housing Authority to secure funds for the Gainesville HIPPY 100 program. We operated in several housing projects for two years. After that time, Dr. D. R. Williams of the Williams Temple Church of God in Christ agreed to administer the project.

Since 2001, Gainesville HIPPY at Williams Temple has been operating as the only faith-based HIPPY site in the state. Gainesville HIPPY is a positive well-received program in the area and is an active player among school readiness and support programs. I have been very fortunate to have a dedicated staff for the past four years. They have worked together tirelessly and creatively as a team for the benefit of all the HIPPY families in our program.

I am now ready to pass the HIPPY torch to a capable and committed young woman. Yolanda Hagley will replace me as Coordinator of Gainesville HIPPY. She has been a great asset to me and is just one class away from earning her degree. I also want to thank my wife of nearly 30 years, Susan Henry Young, who has functioned as my unpaid Administrative Assistant through the years. I've had a tremendous journey with HIPPY. As I prepare to retire, I want to say adieu to all of my HIPPY friends and acquaintances. I will forever remain an advocate for children and families. The beat goes on...Peace Out!

Spotlight on HIPPY Families

Submitted By: Jone Williams, Coordinator
Sarasota HIPPY



HIPPY Graduate Nominated As A Global Scholar

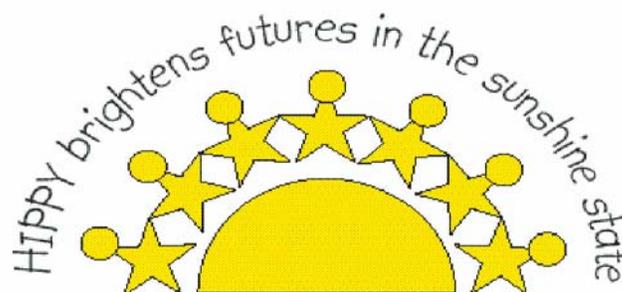
Leroy Butler of Sarasota was nominated to serve as a Global Scholar representative for the United States of America at the 2005 Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.

This HIPPY Graduate attends Booker High School in Sarasota and was selected based on his high academic achievement, leadership skills, and interest in diplomatic, social and economic issues.

At the conference, he will have an opportunity to expand his cultural awareness and interact with other students from more than 100 countries. In addition, he will have an opportunity to meet high ranking diplomats from around the world and share his views on issues facing young people of his generation.

HIPPY Sarasota and HIPPY Florida are excited and proud of Leroy's academic achievements. He is an excellent testimony that HIPPY Works!

Please share with us, your families success stories so that they may appear in future editions.





HOME VISITOR CORNER

(This section can include success stories of home visitors, or any issues that may relate to home visitors. Therefore, if you would like to submit a story or relevant issue, please feel free to forward it to the HIPPIY T&TA Center.)

Personal Safety of HIPPIY Home Visitors

By: Dabaram Rampersad, Assistant State Director

Last year, the Center for Family Services (CFS) identified (from results of survey) that there was a need for training in the areas of personal safety and reporting signs of abuse. These trainings were also part of required agency training. Therefore, CFS teamed up with the state HIPPIY office and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department to host "Safety In Home Visits/ Crime Prevention" and "Recognizing and Reporting Signs of Abuse". There were many tips shared at these two trainings.

Some of the tips shared by Detective Veneziano on the safety of home visitors while conducting HIPPIY home visits include the following:

- HIPPIY Coordinator should have a copy of your (home visitor) daily and weekly schedule. Home Visitors should always inform coordinator of any changes in schedule. It is also wise for a copy of your schedule to be kept at home with a family member.
- Wear appropriate and comfortable clothing. Clothing should not be too revealing.
- Limit your jewelry.
- Keep your vehicle well-maintained by servicing regularly.
- Keep your cell phone fully-charged at all times.
- Park as close as possible to the front of the home you are visiting.
- Always LOCK your vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables where it can be seen in your vehicle.
- As you are entering a home, scan the area for signs of unfamiliar people.
- Pay close attention to the people in the home and surroundings.
- Get to know the neighborhoods that you travel in.
- When returning to your vehicle, scan the area around your vehicle. Have KEYS ready for unlocking your car. Before unlocking your vehicle, look into the back seat to see if anyone has gotten into your car. Once inside, lock the doors immediately.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS. If you feel unsafe, then leave and contact your coordinator.

HIPPIY staff are also encouraged to wear their agency identification badges when conducting home visits or conducting business travel. The state office assembled personal safety kits for home visitors to be distributed at the fall coordinator's meeting.



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