



BLAST FROM THE PAST



Can you name this famous HIPPY supporter?

HIPPY Word Search

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACTIVITIES | HOME VISITOR |
| COLORS | LEARNING |
| CURRICULUM | LISTENING |
| DEVELOPMENT | LOVE |
| ENRICHMENT | PLAYING |
| GROUP MEETINGS | PUZZLE |
| HIPPY | SHAPES |

WELCOME ABOARD!

Monticello HIPPY Program

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G T S W Y O G E X C N S U B D
 B R N E S C Q X N X X E I Z E
 W L O E P U O G Y P P I A S V
 L C W U M A H T B Y Z T L R E
 V I P B P H H I I Y H I E O L
 G O S Z U M C S P O Q V A L O
 Z G Y T Y T E I M P F I R O P
 L L T S E O B E R Z Y T N C M
 O A T N A N V Y T N B C I P E
 V C D Q Q I I S F I E A N P N
 E H M W S P Y N R J N D G V T
 U G N I Y A L P G Z Q G M L J
 T Q T P U Z Z L E V Y Z S G H
 U O M U L U C I R R U C A V S
 R H O M E B A S E D I G U C P

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Florida Office of Early Learning - Florida Department of Education - University of South Florida
 Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute - Center of Excellence - HIPPY USA

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)



WINTER 2007

CONTINUED SUCCESS AND NEW BEGINNINGS!

A Message From the Director's Desk

Mary Lindsey, Ph.D., HIPPY State Director



Welcome to a New Year and New Beginning for HIPPY in Florida! You will notice that our State Office newsletter has a new name and a new look. The new name and format were inspired by the recently revised HIPPY 5 curriculum and you will see that the articles and events highlighted in this newsletter are grouped under the columns of "Let's Read", "Let's Talk", and "Let's Play". Other changes for this new version of the newsletter are to distribute it to a wider and more varied audience, and to increase the role that programs play in selecting and contributing to the content of the newsletter. We want it to reflect all the good work that is going on with HIPPY in Florida and to share the news with the HIPPY community, families, funders, policymakers, and community stakeholders.

the new Strategic Plan. We are building our own capacity and infrastructure at the same time we are supporting local programs. We are also in the midst of final preparations for the 2007 Florida HIPPY Conference next month in St. Petersburg. The focus of the conference will be professional development for home visitors, and there are many exciting and informative workshops on the schedule. As always, the best part of the conference will be the chance for all of us in the Florida HIPPY family to reconnect and visit, learn and laugh together!

I want to thank all of you for your outstanding work and love for the children and families that have been entrusted to us. I really appreciate all of the support that you have given to us at the state office. We know that 2007 will be a banner year for HIPPY in Florida.

Sincerely,
Mary Lindsey

This year at the State Office we are continuing to work on implementing

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Visit us on the web:
<http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu>



Let's READ



"With the help of Former State Representative Ed Jennings Jr., and his Targeting Educational Computers in the Home (TECH) program, some of the Gainesville HIPPY parents have received brand new, top of the line, computers, printers, modems, software, and internet access for a year."

- Yolanda Hagley
Coordinator

A HIPPY Program Highlight

Yolanda Hagley
Gainesville HIPPY Coordinator

Gainesville HIPPY at Williams Temple began the year with a surge of energy surrounding newly trained staff, an increased funding with a record number of community collaboration and partnerships. In May of 2006, we successfully wrote an \$80,000 grant for the local United Way of North Central Florida's Success By 6 Initiative, which provided funding for an additional sixty (60) children and four (4) staff. Collaborations with Santa Fe Community College's East Gainesville Initiative Faith Based Subcommittee provided \$14,700 for an additional ten (10) children. Williams Temple a member and our local sponsor also donated the use of their new multipurpose center for our office space, trainings and group meetings. Through these combined efforts, Gainesville HIPPY was able to welcome aboard an additional six (6) new Parent Educators with outstanding resumes and backgrounds in Early Childhood Development and Education.

Gainesville HIPPY, along with the Starke HIPPY program, was chosen for a Targeting Educational Computers in the Home (TECH) grant proposed by State Representative Ed Jennings Jr. The programs received twenty

(20) brand new computers, printers, modems, software and one year of internet service for participating 5 year old HIPPY graduates. HIPPY's inclusion in this endeavor reflects the years of advocacy and public relations efforts both locally and statewide. Representative Ed Jennings also championed an additional \$400,000 to the state budget allowing more families to be served in sites through out Florida. His commitment to families and children is evident in these many efforts to advocate for Floridians.

2006-2007 marks the official partnership with the Santa Fe Community College East Gainesville Faith Based Initiative. Twelve churches pledged financial support for 10 HIPPY families. The Junior League has partnered with HIPPY for the past five years and supplied over \$15,000 in In-kind support that includes trips to museums and ballets.

These are just a few of our partners and we want to say thank you to all of our HIPPY Champions. We appreciate all you do for children and families in Florida.



Advocacy 101

Lee Johnson
Vice President, Sarasota Family YMCA

It is important for Florida HIPPY Programs to remember to continue to advocate for HIPPY all year. In this article, I have laid out a year long plan to keep all HIPPY programs on a continuous advocating schedule.

Beginning with June through August, programs can determine who your local legislators are, research their history, (i.e., do they have a history or passion for your program or will you need to completely educate them?), and invite the Legislator, Aide, and their Administrative Assistant to visit your program. If the legislator is unable to visit your HIPPY program, remember that you can also schedule an appointment to meet with them at their office. Be organized, prompt, and have an agenda. Bring a child and mother or a home visitor along as well as program materials supporting your agenda. Use your appointment time wisely by staying on track. Be sure to get their email address and phone number

in Tallahassee and their Home District Office.

Continually, during September through November it is important to follow-up your summer visit with a bit more information. Place the legislators on your mailing list. Once again, invite them to any events or functions that you may have scheduled through the year.

Furthermore, the months of December through February can be used to keep Legislators and their staff informed about your program by email and/ or telephone. Visit during Committee weeks in Tallahassee and attend the relevant committee meeting of your issue.

Finally, during the busy months of March through May plan a visit to Tallahassee. Call in advance and schedule your visit. Time will be extremely limited so be prepared with a crisp message. Email and call every few weeks to make sure your agenda is heard. Advocacy is very important so have a plan and stay on course.

A GREAT START!

Brenda Brinson
Florida State HIPPYCorps Coordinator

Thirty-three Florida HIPPY Home Visitors were invited to become members of the National HIPPYCorps Initiative in December 2006. They joined members in California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Oregon who had been participating in this project for the past four years. As of January 31, 2007, Florida HIPPYCorps members have completed 2,272 HIPPY service hours and 635 training hours.

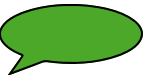
In addition, they have completed 270 volunteer hours. Florida HIPPYCorps mem-

bers have volunteered in local classrooms, assisted with sporting events, tutoring, language translations, community activities, etc.

Education is the foundation of HIPPY and parents are dedicating time volunteering in local schools helping in the classrooms or at special events. As of January 31, 2007, HIPPY parents have logged over 113 volunteer hours!

The Florida State Office commends all Florida HIPPYCorps members and HIPPY Parent volunteers on their commitment to service. Keep up the good work!!

Let's TALK



"Since 1994, more than 250,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans."