

## Florida HIPPY Is On The Right Track!

**ALACHUA**  
Williams Temple Church of God In Christ

**BRADFORD**  
Bradford County School District

**BROWARD**  
Family Central, Inc.

**DADE**  
Family Central, Inc. / Dade County Public Schools

**DESOTO**  
Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland

**GADSDEN / LEON / MADISON**  
Friends of Children, Youth and Families, Inc.

**HILLSBOROUGH**  
Hillsborough County Center of Excellence, Inc.

**JEFFERSON**  
Jefferson County School Board

**MANATEE**  
Resource Connection for Kids

**MARION**  
Marion County Public Schools

**PALM BEACH**  
Center for Family Services

**PINELLAS**  
Pinellas County Management Services - NFCC

**POLK**  
LifePath Solutions, Inc.

**PUTNAM**  
Communities In Schools of Putnam County, Inc.

**SARASOTA**  
Sarasota Family YMCA



Spring 2008

## GREAT SUCCESS

Continued from **HIPPY Works!**

### North Lauderdale HIPPY Success Story

My name is Mydwine Joanis; I am a parent of three children, Edwine, Age 14, Geraldine who is 6, and my baby Christine who is almost 2. I have been a Home Visitor with Family Central for almost two years now. My HIPPY story began when I met a lady named Rita Pierre at my daughter's school. Rita told me all about HIPPY and asked me if I wanted to participate in the program. I had never heard of a program like this but it sounded good and I decided to give it a try with my then 4-year-old daughter, Geraldine.

Soon after, Rita started coming to my home to role-play the curriculum with me. I was amazed at how much my child was learning. HIPPY encouraged me to spend quality time with Geraldine. Geraldine had so much fun doing all the activities and my confidence in teaching her grew as I learned to be her first teacher.

Geraldine completed the age 4 and 5 curricula and is doing wonderful in school. She is on the honor roll every quarter; her teacher always has positive comments about her skills and her behavior. Now she is in first grade and she is a leader in her class. HIPPY really works; it teaches our children skills that they need to be successful in school and it prepares them for the real world.

Two years ago, I was a single unemployed mom with my mother and struggling financially to take care of my three children. One day my home visitor stopped by and told me that the HIPPY program was hiring and asked me if I was still looking for a job; I said yes and immediately gave her my resume to pass on to the Coordinator. To make a long story short, I got the position as a part-time Home Visitor and soon after was promoted to full-time. I absolutely love being a Home Visitor; I am helping families, I am learning so much, and I am becoming more professional every day.

My life has significantly changed since I began working for HIPPY; I feel good about the work that I am doing; it has helped me to feel more confident as a mother and as a woman. Last year I moved out of my mother's home and now I have my own place with my 3 children. I recently started college and am looking forward to my degree. Let me tell you ladies and gentlemen; HIPPY definitely changes lives and I know that for a fact because it changed mine.

Sincerely,  
*Mydwine Joanis*

## Tips for Parents

**6. If you think your child has a learning disability, you have a right to ask the school for a free evaluation by qualified professionals.**

**7. Monitor what your child is watching, and whenever possible, watch the programs with your child.**



**HIPPYUSA**  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters  
**FLORIDA**

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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.

<http://www.hippyusa.org>

The Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center is supported by funds from the Office of Early Learning/AWI in collaboration with the University of South Florida



## A Message from the Director's Desk

Mary Lindsey, Ph.D., HIPPY State Director

### Hats Off To All HIPPIES!

We are still flying high as a result of the wonderful experiences we shared at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Avima Lombard Award and HIPPY National Conference. It was so exciting to see old and new HIPPY friends and supporters. We worked hard and learned from each other's successes and challenges, discussed the innovative changes made to the SAVI/SAFE, greeted new coordinators/home visitors through a high energy rally, met the talented and dedicated new HIPPY USA Staff. We left the conference feeling rejuvenated through the testimonies and reminders from our keynote speaker that we should learn to listen to our children. After three days of sharing and reflecting we all departed to the various parts of the country with renewed determination to go back to our communities and reaffirm the role of the parent as their child's most important and influential teacher. After all, we want to help parents do what's best for their children!



As in all good things, time has a way of getting us back to reality. We are busy wrapping up this fiscal year and looking forward to beginning a new year in just a few weeks. We have accomplished some major feats this year, over fifty percent of Florida programs achieved stellar status, the HIPPY Health pilot got up off the ground and exceeded the number of parents we projected to serve. Florida has the largest number of HIPPYCorps members in the United States. The statewide longitudinal study is well on its way and we expect data to be available by early fall. Finally, the Florida HIPPY Success Stories Booklet will hit the airways by the end of June for all to see how Florida HIPPY brightens futures in the sunshine state. Therefore, on behalf of the Florida HIPPY Advisory Committee, HIPPY Staff, Coordinators, Home Visitors, Parents, Children, and Champions, we salute you for an EXCELLENT year!



## Tips for Parents

1. Take your child to school on the first day.
2. Ask for copies of school policies. If there is something you do not understand, ask questions.
3. Avoid using TV as a babysitter



## Healthy Learning With HIPPY

Eric Biel, State Health Coordinator

The purpose of the Health Literacy Pilot is two-fold: to link families to medical homes (doctor, dentist, and insurance) and to provide knowledge to HIPPY families about preventive health measures and home safety. A majority of the sites who participated in the pilot have completed and submitted all of the evaluation instruments. The instruments included a pre and post test and five session surveys. The health pilot also supplemented the regular HIPPY group meetings, thereby increasing family participation. The HIPPY Health Literacy Pilot is wrapping up.

### Health Literacy Pretest Findings Fall 2007

During Fall 2007, 347 English (81%) and Spanish-speaking (19%) parents completed the Health Literacy Pretest. From these tests we measured parents' perception of their children's health care and found a large percentage of parents reporting that their HIPPY child has been to a doctor in the past year, currently has health insurance, is able to get medical care, goes to the same doctor each visit, and has up-to-date immunizations. Moreover, in regard to the children's dental care, approximately half of the parents reported their oldest HIPPY child has been to a dentist in the past year and 75% of parents completing the English version and 67% of parents completing the Spanish version reported their child has dental insurance. Relatively high numbers of parents reported that they know where and are able to get dental care for their child. The pretest also indicated that their HIPPY child goes to the same dentist each visit.

The coordinators reported on their successes and challenges encountered during the first year of the health pilot. The original design was written to deliver the curriculum during home visits, but once it was modified to be presented in the group meeting setting, there were multiple factors that affected the delivery of the lessons. Transportation was one of the major factors that impacted participation. Those sites who reported no transportation problems also reported a higher number of parents in attendance. On the positive side, there were stories shared on how the pilot has helped their HIPPY program and their HIPPY families. One particular story stands out where the Health Consultant shared that the families were shown some emergency procedures earlier in the curriculum and that one family utilized the knowledge gained from the HIPPY Health Pilot to respond to the situation properly.

Each site that has completed the HIPPY Health Pilot has expressed interest in continuing the pilot in the second year. The programs will do whatever is necessary in order to implement it into their site's regular group meeting agenda. A big thank you to South Florida Books and Electronics in helping make the HIPPY Health Pilot a complete success!

### South Florida Books & Electronics



# THANK YOU!

## Tips for Parents

4. In early reading, the rhyme is a way for children to enjoy the repetition of the sound of language.

5. Allow your child to touch and hold sturdy cardboard books.



## Florida HIPPYCorps Members Learn How To "Get Things Done" In Florida!

Brenda Brinson, State Site Coordinator

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Florida HIPPYCorps Conference was held on April 12-13, 2008 as a kick-off to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National HIPPY Conference held in St. Petersburg, Florida on April 13-16, 2008. Members participated in a volunteer orientation with HIPPY USA staff on Saturday afternoon and conducted a service project, stuffing 450 conference bags on Saturday night. On Sunday, they began training sessions on leadership and volunteering as well as a rally with other HIPPY Home Visitors to network and learn strategies for selecting training sessions for the national conference. HIPPYCorps members also served as workshop monitors during the national conference. Members expressed that they learned a lot from the conferences and are looking forward to planning their local volunteer projects with their HIPPY families.



### The AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.  
I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.  
Faced with apathy, I will take action.  
Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.  
Faced with adversity, I will persevere.  
I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.  
I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

## HIPPY Works!

### Clearwater HIPPY Success Story

My name is Elena Trevino and I feel privileged to be a part of the HIPPY program. As a home visitor I am able to work with some wonderful people who understand the importance of education. While working with my HIPPY parents I am able to help them to not only learn new things for their children, but for themselves also. My HIPPY parents consist of mothers, grandmothers, and an aunt. Teria is a 19 year old aunt who has taken on the responsibility to raise her twin three-year-old niece and nephew and one year old nephew. She is dedicated to make life better for her niece and nephews through enhancing their love of learning. When we work together on the HIPPY activities I can see she is eager to learn new ways to help the children learn. The HIPPY program makes it possible for parents to become their child's first and most important teacher. Knowledge is empowerment and I feel blessed to be a part of the HIPPY program.

### Tampa HIPPY Success Story

Maria Lopez is a single mom of two daughters, Ashley and Heidi. She has been a participant in the HIPPY program since 2005. Maria stated that when she moved to Florida, she didn't have any knowledge about how to teach her daughters until she was introduced to HIPPY by her home visitor, Alicia Flores. "When I started HIPPY, it helped me understand how important it is for me to teach my children. My daughter, Heidi graduated in 2007 and Ashley is learning English through HIPPY." They are doing very well and Maria is proud that people notice. HIPPY has given me the desire to continue to learn to speak English. I have registered for an English class because I want to communicate with others better". I love HIPPY and I have referred a lot of people to the program. I always share with others how important HIPPY is for our children and our community."



See **GREAT SUCCESS** on **BACK**