I have heard it repeated all over the United States, that HIPPY is the best kept secret in America. I no longer want HIPPY to remain a secret in Florida; therefore we have dedicated this edition of our newsletter to sharing the Florida HIPPY story with all of our friends and supporters. It is not a person who opposes and rejects many of the conventional standards of society nor the subculture that began in the early 60’s and spread around the world usually describing beatniks, etc. HIPPY was developed in Israel in the late 60’s by the late Dr. Avima Lombard at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. HIPPY is a parent involvement and school readiness program that offers free home based early childhood education for three, four, and five year old children working with parents as their first and most important teacher. The parent is provided with a set of developmentally appropriate materials, curriculum and books designed to strengthen their children’s cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development.

In 1985, the first HIPPY program began in Miami, Florida and continues to flourish under the Miami Dade Public School System. In 1996, the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center was opened at the University of South Florida and is the second largest state office in the United States. The Center serves over 2,500 children in seventeen counties, representing a variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds such as migrant, Spanish-speaking, Haitian-Creole, and rural communities.
How HIPPY Helps Children

- HIPPY is primarily cognitive-based focusing on language development, problem solving, logical thinking and perceptual skills.
- HIPPY’s curriculum covers the skills necessary to acquire reading and other literacy skills.
- HIPPY’s curriculum is developmentally appropriate and builds on the child’s interests and maturing skills.
- HIPPY offers skill development through a variety of approaches.
- HIPPY fosters social-emotional and physical development in children.

Sol Shines with HIPPY
Bradenton HIPPY Success Story
Angelica Mendoza, HIPPY Parent

I am very thankful with the HIPPY program because my daughter Sol has made big progress since Ms. Zenia has been helping me with the lessons. The program has helped Sol learn many things she comes from school and asks me for the lessons she needs very little directions to do the activities. Now she wants me to learn English. She is even teaching me English. My husband is very happy with the program. He enjoyed very much the HIPPY graduation. The HIPPY program has helped me understand the importance of having an educational environment for my children since they are smart. Now I am very interested in Sol’s education.

Thank you very much.
Parents Seek out HIPPY
Clearwater HIPPY Success Story
Annette Patterson, Clearwater HIPPY Assistant Coordinator

We have been delivering HIPPY Flyers to the Libraries in North County for Outreach to the community and exploring opportunities to attend “Story Book Times.” The Dunedin Public Library was very receptive to displaying our flyers and offering us the opportunity to attend a story time to present the program to parents.

I received a call on December 8, 2009 from Ginger, a parent, who said that she had taken one of the last flyers from Dunedin Public Library. She said that she had a 3 year old, “Katie” that she wanted to enroll in the program. As we talked she shared that they had moved here from Ohio, where her two older daughters had been enrolled in the HIPPY Program. She said that she wished now that she had checked on it because she did not know that the HIPPY Program was in Florida. She said if she had known she could have enrolled her 6 year old kindergarten daughter in the HIPPY 5 curriculum. She had just recently turned 6 and Ginger said that she believed that the 5 year old curriculum had really helped her older daughter be successful in school. She stated that the program has been invaluable to the success of her children in school and she looks forward to starting with her 3 year old and continuing through the HIPPY 4 & 5 Curriculum. She even if we had Family Groups like the one in Ohio.

I thanked her for her call and for sharing how valuable the HIPPY Program has been to her and her children. I look forward to meeting her at one of the Family Groups.

How HIPPY Helps Parents

- HIPPY begins with the basic tenet that all parents want the very best for their children, but might need support and help in developing their children’s potential.
- HIPPY gives parents the tools, skills and confidence they need to be the primary educators of their children.
- HIPPY teaches parents how to engage their children in educational activities.
- HIPPY delivers services through home visits by trained peers from the community.
- HIPPY provides additional learning experiences through group meeting activities and special events.

Parents and Teachers Love HIPPY
West Palm Beach HIPPY Success Story
Carrie Sadowski, West Palm Beach HIPPY Home Visitor

As we sit at the table, laughing about what the children have done Brenda Hendricks is reminded of good news. We get together every week and role-play. Brenda and her husband are very involved in the HIPPY program. Having their son in the HIPPY program the week goes by fast! Kennate is in kindergarten and in the age 5 curriculum and sister K’anna who finished the HIPPY Program two years ago, is doing exceptionally well in second grade.

Brenda is reminded of the wonderful things her son’s teacher has said. His teacher has expressed how impressed she is and asks what are they doing at home. Brenda raved about HIPPY and told her of the one-on- one time spent at home and the extension activities they do like when food shopping or helping set the table for dinner (counting how many place settings and folding the napkins into rectangles or triangles and so on). The teacher let her know how important that commitment is and encouraged her to keep up all their hard work!

Another proud moment as we are reminded of the wonderful job of parenting as we see and we hear good news. Brenda is so thankful for the program she has chosen to bring into her home and loves bragging to her friends about HIPPY and how lucky she feels to have found a way to be a part of her children’s education.
Telling the HIPPY Story

Diane Powell, Ph.D. & Marsha Black, Ph.D., USF HIPPY Researchers

The personal stories related in this newsletter provide compelling documentation of the impact that HIPPY can have in the lives of parents and children. They illustrate the transformation that can occur when parents receive the support, encouragement and resources provided by HIPPY to become active agents of change in their children’s lives. Such narratives put a personal face on the objective research findings that show HIPPY influences children’s readiness for school and long-term academic success.

The HIPPY program has the potential to impact the lives of far more children in Florida. The next step is to “tell the HIPPY story”. The Florida HIPPY State Office has selected advocacy as a theme for 2010. HIPPY coordinators are already engaging in a variety of advocacy activities. Examples include having one-on-one meetings with legislators, attending community meetings or forums, conducting public education campaigns, using media outreach, forming community partnerships, and using electronic advocacy (emails) “to tell the HIPPY story.” These advocacy activities will continue next year to create awareness and support for the HIPPY program.

How Can I Help?

“I am proud that Miami, my community, is one of the pioneers in the US for HIPPY,” said Senator Rich. “I saw how effective it was in Israel and thought it applicable to populations in the US, as well as worldwide. HIPPY fosters a love of learning and prepares children to be successful. All children deserve that opportunity and HIPPY is a key vehicle for enabling that to happen. We know how important parental involvement is for successful outcomes. If it doesn’t happen at home, it’s very hard to happen later.”

- Senator Nan Rich

Join Senator Nan Rich and other long time supporters by making a donation and volunteering at your local HIPPY program.

Make a Donation Today!

Please send all donations to: Florida HIPPY Foundation Account, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MHC 2113A, Tampa, FL 33612
Checks payable to: USF Foundation (Memo Line: Acct # 530004 HIPPY Services Fund)
100% of your contribution is received by HIPPY. HIPPY is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization.