Director’s Note
State of Florida HIPPY
Mary Lindsey, Ph.D., HIPPY State Director

Florida HIPPY has met some funding challenges similar to the ones being faced across our nation. The West Palm Beach HIPPY program has been reduced due to budget cuts and the Arcadia HIPPY program will be managed by the Sarasota Family YMCA. In spite of these changes, Florida HIPPY continues to thrive serving over twelve counties with approximately 2,000 children. The first HIPPY program in Hillsborough County (started in 1990) expanded its services to include children with special needs through a grant funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. The USF HIPPY Parent Involvement Project (HHPIP) will serve children ages three through five countywide.

The state office has developed collaborative partnerships with a number of agencies. The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) partnership will provide direct assistance to families of children with developmental disabilities. The Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace, Inc., Project Link, Inc., and Mental Health Care, Inc. will receive subcontracts to provide direct services to children and families in Hillsborough County. Marion County HIPPY will serve as one of the nine pilot sites that will provide feedback from families, home visitors, and coordinators to HIPPY USA on the revisions made to the HIPPY curriculum.

The Florida HIPPY State Staff Development Conference has been scheduled for January 24-25, 2013, to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida. The theme for the conference is HIPPY Is A Treasure and will pay tribute to Senator Nan Rich for all of her dedicated service to children and families in Florida. Senator Rich will also be recognized as an advocate for supporting the HIPPY USA Research Center at the University of South Florida.

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A Love of Learning Begins at Home

Florida HIPPY Community Programs

ALACHUA
Gainesville HIPPY, Inc.

BRADFORD
Bradford County School District

BROWARD
Family Central, Inc.

MIAMI-DADE
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Family Central, Inc.

DESOTO
Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Heartland

HILLSBOROUGH
Hillsborough County Center of Excellence, Inc.

MANATEE
Manatee Community Action Agency
– Resource Connection for Families

MARION
Marion County Public Schools

Palm Beach
Center for Family Services, Inc.

Pinellas
R’Club Child Care, Inc.

Sarasota
Sarasota Family YMCA

Research & Evaluation

Marsha Black, PhD, University of South Florida HIPPY Researcher

As we move forward with our research agenda for 2012-13, we expect research findings to show the HIPPY program continuing to achieve the goal of making a positive difference in the lives of children and their families. The Florida HIPPY Longitudinal Study, with over 500 HIPPY graduates entering kindergarten in September 2011, will show the impact of HIPPY on student outcomes. In October, we will request 2011 school readiness scores and FCAT scores from the Florida Education Data Warehouse.

A parent involvement survey is being developed that will measure parents’ use of interactive reading strategies with their child, participation in parent/child home literacy activities, and knowledge of how their child is learning and developing school readiness skills. The survey will be administered to first-year HIPPY parents in Spring 2013 after they complete at least 25 weeks of the 30-week HIPPY curriculum.

This fall will be the second year of collecting information from parents on their current education, employment, availability of computers, and use of electronic media. The HIPPY Parent Education and Employment Survey is a one-page questionnaire that will be completed by all parents in the HIPPY program. Last year 1,167 completed surveys we received showed that 78% of parents had at least either a high school diploma or a GED certificate, 41% were employed either full or part time, and 39% were full-time homemakers.

A new research initiative will be launched during Spring 2013 with the USF Hillsborough HIPPY Parent Involvement Project grant received from the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. The HIPPY curricula will be delivered to children with developmental disabilities. The purpose of this pilot is to explore the adaptations needed in the HIPPY model to successfully conduct the home visits and for children to complete the weekly HIPPY lessons. For example, are reduced caseloads allowing sufficient time for these families’ needs?

We are excited about our research agenda and look forward to working with HIPPY staff on these research projects.
Male Involvement
Edwin Castillo, North Lauderdale HIPPY Home Visitor

“I have found that HIPPY helps families in so many areas. I had been a HeadStart Teacher for ten years when I was approached by Ms. Yanick Goutier searching for a HIPPY coordinator in my community. I became interested in the position when I realized that this program worked with the entire family and the parent was the child’s first and most important teacher. I was excited about helping parents get their children ready for school.

I did not realize that I was going to be the only male home visitor for this long period of time. I was concerned about how to deal with going into the home to work with mothers if fathers were not at home. I had to make adjustments to my schedule to make sure that both parents were home on the first few visits so that I could tell fathers about the program and ask them to be there for the lessons. It was awkward at first until the fathers realized that I was only there to teach the mothers how to teach their children the HIPPY lessons. I serve as a role model for fathers to take time to read with their children and on one occasion the mother had to leave and the father role played the lesson and later decided to take an active part in the teaching of their child. I have turned my job into teaching both parents to work with their children. I have been able to get more fathers involved in community activities and to bond with their children. I love my job and encourage all home visitors to find creative ways to get the father’s attention and when they see that it is fun they will start to spend more time with their children.”

“Edwin is hardworking and provides so much support and encouragement to the families he serves. The majority of our children are boys who look up to Edwin as a role model. Edwin has also influenced HIPPY Dads to become more engaged in the lives of their children.”

— Lidia Clarke, HIPPY Supervisor.
HIPPY 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.

Highlights: Lakesia Wimberly

Lakesia Wimberly was enrolled in the first Sarasota HIPPY graduation class of 1992.

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<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Westcoast School for Human Development (3.5 GPA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Dean’s list, Honor Roll, Selby Scholar, Florida bright Futures Awardee and Community Foundation Awardee.</td>
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<td>High School Activities</td>
<td>Sarasota Youth leadership, YMCA Achievers program, Precious pearls, Thais program, Volunteer at Sunshine Meadows, Youth volunteer Westcoast center Audio &amp; Television Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Florida A &amp; M University (B.S. in Criminal Justice and Psychology)</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
<td>Dean’s List and Honor Roll, and Mary McCloud Bethune Scholarship Awardee</td>
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How Can I Help? Make a Donation Today!
Checks payable to: USF Foundation (Memo Line: Acct # 530004 HIPPY Services Fund)
Please send all donations to: Florida HIPPY Foundation Account, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MHC 2113A, Tampa, FL 33612
The USF Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Supported by funds from Florida’s Office of Early Learning in collaboration with the University of South Florida.
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