Director’s Note
HIPPY Family Education Activity
Mary Lindsey, Ph.D., HIPPY State Director

Have you ever dreamed or thought about making snow angels on grass in an evening gown on the front lawn of the Governor’s Mansion? Well, some HIPPY children not only thought about it, they actually did. Can you imagine the thrill of a bus ride with parents, snacks, and the opportunity to perform the ABC song for The First Lady and then a tour of the Capitol. HIPPY parents and their children toured the Mansion and visited their Legislators to tell them about their experiences with HIPPY. The children and families received a very warm welcome as they were introduced on the Senate floor by Senator Nan Rich. Well, if you are wondering what all this has to do with HIPPY, well I am glad you asked. HIPPY is a parent involvement model that teaches parents the important role that they play in the education of their children. It also provides opportunities for parents and their children to explore other educational activities and to broaden their view of their world. The results from the parent survey included in this edition will further highlight the importance of parent involvement in the lives of their children.
HIPPY Parents Are Using the Reading Strategies Taught in the HIPPY Curriculum:

The Florida HIPPY Parent Involvement study was conducted to document the frequency with which first-year HIPPY parents are involved with their children in different types of home literacy and community activities. There is evidence that these activities help build children’s language and pre-literacy skills in the preschool years. Research also confirms that these early skills give children the strongest foundation for learning to read.

HIPPY Parents were interviewed in their home by their home visitor in their primary language (English or Spanish). There were 368 completed HIPPY parent interviews. Interview questions were taken from the 2007 National Household Education Questionnaire (a publicly available dataset). The national study was a phone interview conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics on parent and family involvement in their children’s educational activities. Results from HIPPY parents were compared with parents in the NHES sample who had children ages three, four, or five and a household income less than $25,000.

Statistical tests (Chi-square) were used to determine whether there were statistically significant differences between HIPPY parents and NHES parents with regard to the frequency with which they were engaged in various educational activities with their children. The findings below represent the results for the items that measured how often parents use various strategies for reading with their children:

- Frequency of stop reading and asking child to describe picture
- Frequency of stop reading and pointing out letters to the child
- Frequency of talking about the story
- Frequency of asking the child to read with parent

HIPPY parents are taught these skills through role playing with their home visitor. The charts below represent the statistically significant differences between the HIPPY and NHES parents in the frequency with which they are participating in these reading activities with their children:
Strategies Taught in the HIPPY Curriculum:  
A Love of Learning Begins at Home

**Parents with Incomes $25,000 and Below**

**Frequency of Stop Reading and Asking Child to Describe Picture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIPPY N=202</th>
<th>NHES N=213</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe Picture Reading Activity</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parents with Incomes $25,000 and Below**

**Frequency of Stop Reading and Pointing Out Letters to the Child**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIPPY N=176</th>
<th>NHES N=169</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point Out Letters Reading Activity</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parents With Incomes $25,000 and Below**

**Frequency of Talking About the Story**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIPPY N=160</th>
<th>NHES N=206</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talk About Story Reading Activity</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A Comparison of HIPPY and NHES Parents:**

**Frequency of Asking Child to Read**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIPPY N=160</th>
<th>NHES N=206</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asking Child to Read Reading Activity</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Success Story: Scholarship Recipient Looking Forward to Graduation

Written by: Robin Levros, North Miami HIPPY Parent

My name is Robin Levros and I am honored to be selected as one of the recipients to receive the NCJW-GMS Scholarship. First, I would like to thank HIPPY NCJW-GMS committee for supporting and encouraging me and many women to continue their education. I am so grateful because financially it has been difficult for me to pay for my textbooks. I am married and a mother of four beautiful girls. One of the benefits for receiving the scholarship is that I am able to purchase my textbooks which can be quite expensive. In the past, I took a Human Resource course and the textbook alone cost me $185.00. I contemplated whether I should purchase the book at the time, because I ran out of funds to purchase the textbook. As a result, I ended up using some of my own personal money to pay for the textbook which I did not have. So, this scholarship has been a blessing for me to receive. This scholarship is an incentive which will help me to complete my remaining three courses before I graduate this December. Once, I graduate I plan on moving up within the organization. My family and I are excited and look forward to my graduation. So, I would especially like to thank NCJW-GMS committee for inspiring women to reach their goals.

Sincerely,

Robin Levros

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.