WOW! Our theme said it all, HIPPY Is A Treasure! What an experience to have had representatives from the University of South Florida, HIPPY International, HIPPY USA, and HIPPY Florida support and participate in the conference. The event was held in St. Petersburg, Florida on January 24-25, 2013 and sponsored by the R’Club Child Care, Inc., Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance Center, and the Florida HIPPY Advisory Committee.
First, we want to thank the Pinellas HIPPY program for their first class hospitality that was demonstrated throughout the conference. The evaluations from the workshops, treasure hunt, and closing session stated that this experience provided an opportunity for participants to learn new and innovative ways to work with their children and families. The workshops offered a wealth of information on early childhood development. Dr. Kirsten Ellingsen presented “Parenting Practices and Discipline in Early Childhood: Strategies that Support Positive Development” and Dr. Jennifer Meningall presented “Family Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development.”

Participation of the children during the closing was very encouraging and appreciated by all attendees. We also recognized HIPPY staff and supporters for their positive impacts on the lives of Florida’s families who are most in need of opportunities and encouragement. Friday’s luncheon was a special occasion for honouring a long-time “HIPPY Champion”, former Florida Senator Nan Rich, who is widely recognized as one of Florida’s champions for women and children living below the poverty level.

The conference energized and inspired all attendees to continue their commitment to providing quality services to children and families in Florida!
The HIPPY Skills Measure

Marsha Black, PhD, University of South Florida HIPPY Researcher

The HIPPY Skills measures were developed to assess gains in children’s skills and knowledge after they complete 80% of the curriculum in HIPPY 3, HIPPY 4 or HIPPY 5. The ten questions were derived from the HIPPY activity packets children complete during the final weeks of the curricula. The tests are administered by home visitors as a pre and post measure. Examples of the tasks on the HIPPY Skills Tests include those focusing on perceptual discrimination, memory, and reasoning. These tasks also include comparison among objects based on physical features (color, shape, size) and properties (weight); sequencing events; putting together parts of a whole; grouping and sorting similar objects and identifying similarities and differences among objects based on common characteristics.

This article compares the results for the second year of test administration. Four HIPPY programs (Bradenton, Gainesville, Tampa and St. Petersburg) completed the HIPPY Skills test in the second year. There were 239 children who had both a pretest and posttest (65% English; 35% Spanish).

The chart above illustrates that there is a positive increase in the average scores of the pretests and posttests across all three curricula. Children enrolled in HIPPY 3 had an average of 3.7 questions correct out of 10 questions on their pretest and had an average of 8.0 questions correct out of 10 questions on their posttest. This is an average increase of 4.3 points (43% increase) in the HIPPY 3 curriculum. Children enrolled in HIPPY 4 had an average of 5.0 questions correct out of 10 questions on their pretest and had an average of 8.3 questions correct out of 10 questions on their posttest. This is an average increase of 3.3 points (33% increase) in the HIPPY 4 curriculum. Children enrolled in HIPPY 5 had an average of 5.8 questions correct out of 10 questions on their pretest and had an average of 8.6 questions correct out of 10 questions on their posttest. This is an average increase of 2.8 points (28% increase) in the HIPPY 5 curriculum. These differences were tested statistically by a comparative means T-test and found to be significant for each of the three HIPPY curricula for Year II.

We are excited about our research agenda and look forward to working with HIPPY staff on these research projects.

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.

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

Events, activities, programs, and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University’s respect for personal dignity.

Highlights: Bob Mahan

Dear HIPPY,

Thank you for your wonderful program. My wife and I are enjoying teaching our two boys Joshua – 4 and David – 3 using your curriculum.

I wanted to share a father and husbands perspective of the program.

I have wanted to home school my children since before I was married or had children. However, I was not sure what curriculum to select, how to maintain accountability, and manage the education of multiple children simultaneously.

HIPPY has provided the training, curriculum and accountability I was looking for in the following ways:

1. The lessons and activities are age appropriate and interesting to my boys. They regularly ask if we can “do school.” One day, David’s only lesson was reading one of his books, which he and I did lying on the bed. Afterwards he said that that wasn’t good enough because he wanted to do school at the table with his papers and school box. That level of desire for learning is priceless. Joshua and David often ask to participate in their brother’s lesson also. Great to see them working together.

2. Before we started with HIPPY, we told the boys that Miss Constance was their teacher. She corrected us, and we quickly learned that she is our teacher and we are their teacher. She is teaching us how to teach our children. My desire was always there, but I was not sure about my ability. I am now gaining confidence in my ability to teach my children.

3. My biggest concern has always been about consistency. I know I have the motivation and enthusiasm, but was not sure how to stay consistent with their education. The daily lessons, and weekly training with Constance provide the consistency and accountability I wanted.

Thank you for providing a wonderful program that my wife and I use together as we participate together as our children’s first teachers.

Bob Mahan

Constance Shaw, St. Petersburg Home Visitor

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

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