



HIPPY PARENT HANDBOOK



HIPPY Children Are...

- ADMIRABLE**, recognize them.
- BOUNTIFUL**, be generous with them.
- COLLAGES**, be creative with them.
- DEPENDABLE**, rely on them.
- EXPRESSIVE**, encourage them.
- FRIENDLY**, be kind to them.
- GIFTS**, treasure them.
- HUGGABLE**, embrace them.
- INTERESTING**, learn from them.
- JOYOUS**, laugh with them.
- KIND**, be fair with them.
- LOVABLE**, cherish them.
- MEEK**, be gentle with them.
- NOTEWORTHY**, notice them.
- OPTIMISTIC**, believe them.
- PRECIOUS**, value them.
- QUICK**, watch them.
- REAL**, affirm them.
- SPECIAL**, cherish them.
- TALENTED**, support them.
- UNDERSTANDING**, communicate with them.
- VALUABLE**, think highly of them.
- WONDERFUL**, marvel at them.
- X-TRA ORDINARY**, celebrate them
- YEARNING**, notice them.
- ZESTFUL**, enjoy them.

An Open Letter to HIPPY Parents

Welcome to the **HIPPY** Family Team! Each year more than 5,700 parents enroll in the HIPPY program. They are all taking advantage of this unique opportunity to play a leading role in helping their children acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond.

Today, more than ever, there is a tremendous emphasis on parental involvement and the important role parents must play to help prepare and educate their children to be successful learners. We are delighted that you have chosen to enroll your child in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and hope that you and your child will have a positive outcome as a result.

In **HIPPY**, we believe that “A Love of Learning Begins at Home” and further, we believe that parents are their child’s most important and influential teacher. Over the years, we have seen firsthand what happens when parents spend fifteen to twenty minutes a day with their child teaching **HIPPY** curriculum activities. Teachers have reported that **HIPPY** children generally are able to follow directions better, are good listeners, have fewer suspensions, and performed well on achievement tests.

For the next thirty weeks, please commit to spending time each day teaching and yes, playing with your child. Children learn through play and **HIPPY** activities are intended to be fun and interactive. The time you invest in your child today pays huge dividends later as he/she progresses through school.

This **HIPPY** handbook has been prepared to help you understand what **HIPPY** is, how it operates, and in what way your Homebased Educator and other program staff can assist you in getting the most out of the **HIPPY** program.

Please read this manual carefully and contact your local **HIPPY** program if you have questions or need more information. Our goal is to provide you with high quality service and ensure that you enjoy the experience of teaching your child and helping him/her develop the skills that he/she will use throughout life.

Welcome and Have a Wonderful Year in HIPPY!!!



WHAT IS HIPPY?

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) is a home-based early childhood education program for parents of three, four, and some five year old children. Parents, you are your child's first and most important teacher. You have what it takes to make a meaningful difference in your child's life -the gift of TIME; spend it wisely; spend it with your child.

Just fifteen minutes each day with your child will make a difference in how well he/she performs in school when entering kindergarten. To help your child develop important life-long learning skills, we recommend the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program or HIPPY.

All HIPPY programs must include the following components:

- ✓ A thirty week curriculum that is developmentally appropriate
- ✓ A professional coordinator and staff of home-based educators
- ✓ Role-play as the technique for teaching parents the activities
- ✓ Service delivery through home visits and group meetings

WHAT THE HIPPY PROGRAM EXPECTS FROM PARENTS

You have made the decision to participate in HIPPY, and as an enrolled parent, you are expected to do the following:

- ✓ Complete the enrollment process by submitting all required documentation.
- ✓ Allow a home-based educator to visit in your home at a regularly scheduled time each week to role-play the curriculum with you. This requires a commitment of approximately 45 minutes to one hour per visit.
- ✓ Work with your child 15 to 20 minutes each day, teaching the age appropriate HIPPY activities. Take advantage of other teachable moments with your child while shopping, eating together, playing, watching TV, reading storybooks, or simply enjoying conversation.
- ✓ Attend all parent group meetings sponsored by your site either monthly or bi-monthly.

Contact your local HIPPY office, if your home-based educator fails to keep appointments, or if you have other concerns.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM

As a participant in the HIPPY program, the agency commits to provide high-quality services. You should expect the program:

- ✓ To provide, at no cost to you, the 30 week HIPPY curriculum, all related storybooks, shapes and other supplies, so that you can properly teach the activities.
- ✓ To carry out periodic observation of the home-based educator by the supervising coordinator to make sure appropriate services are being provided.
- ✓ To provide meaningful and informative group meetings, training and enrichment activities to help you prepare your child for school.



Funding was made possible by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number D89MC23141 of the Affordable Care Act - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program awarded to the Arkansas Department of Health. The information or content and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR HOME-BASED EDUCATOR

Now that you have made the decision to enroll in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters program, you will be assigned a home-based educator.

It is the home-based educator's responsibility to:

- Assist you with the application and enrollment process.
- Schedule and meet with you on a regular basis to role-play each weekly activity.
- Contact you in a timely manner when she is unable to keep regularly scheduled appointments due to illness or other personal circumstances.
- Assist you by making referrals and recommendations to various agencies, organizations, and school districts for additional support.

Home-based Educator's Name: _____

Home-based Educator's

Telephone Number: _____

Coordinator's Name: _____

Coordinator's

Telephone Number: _____

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

By enrolling your family in the HIPPY program, you have already made the first step in setting your child up for higher academic achievement. Each time you teach your child a HIP-PY lesson, you show them how much you value education and that value becomes instilled in your child. Setting those high educational standards early is one of the keys to future

BEST WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

Set High Expectations: Research has shown that when parents have high expectation for a child's educational achievement, it leads to the highest rates of academic success, over all other types of parental involvement in education.

What You Can Do:

- 👉 Communicate frequently with your child about the importance of education and doing well in school, the sooner the better.
- 👉 Express high, but not unrealistic expectations, for your child's achievement and future careers.
- 👉 Let your child know that education is an important value in your home and you expect him/her to work hard and be successful.
- 👉 If you talk about success, you will see success.

Support Learning at Home: Research demonstrates that parents who participated in programs that taught them how to stimulate their young child's educational and emotional needs at home had children who scored higher on mental tests, used more words, and had greater language scores than those children who did not.

Those parents who started earlier in their child's life saw the most powerful effects. These findings were the same for people of all backgrounds and economic statuses. *In fact, family participation was **twice** as predictive of a student's academic success as family socio-economic status.*

What You Can Do:

- 👉 Carry out the weekly HIPPY lessons with your child.
- 👉 Attend the monthly or bi-monthly parent group meetings to learn new ways to work with your child at home.
- 👉 Read to your child daily.
- 👉 Talk to your child using real vocabulary, ask him/her questions.
- 👉 Turn off the TV and encourage imaginative play.

Benefits of Parental Involvement

Benefits for Children:

- Children tend to achieve more in school regardless of racial or ethnic background, socio-economic status, or parent's education level
- Children achieve better grades, test scores, and attendance in school.
- Children have better self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, and have higher aspirations for school.
- Children have a more positive attitude towards school and as a result have improved behavior and less disciplinary issues.
- Children's achievement increased directly in response to how much the parents were involved in their child's education.
- Fewer children are placed in special education and remedial classes.
- Older children with involved parents tend to make better decisions and drop out of school less.

Benefits for Parents:

- Parents increase their time spent interacting and talking to their children and are more sensitive to their children's needs.
- Parents gain more knowledge of child development and tend to be more affectionate and positive and use less punishment with their children.
- Parents are more likely to get involved in their children's school, attend more conferences, and take a more active role in encouraging their child's learning.





Family Participation Agreement

I, _____ agree to participate in HIPPY Program, along with my child, _____.

I understand HIPPY is a two or three year, 30 week program. I agree to participate in all activities and comply with the requirements of the program as listed:

1. To meet with an assigned home-based educator in my home each week at a regularly scheduled time, to work with my child and submit completed activity packets to the Home-based Educator, and to attend all scheduled parent group meetings.
2. To contact the assigned home-based educator or the HIPPY office if I am unable to keep the scheduled appointment, to submit all documentation required for participation in the program, and to immediately contact the HIPPY office if any problems arise as it relates to my participation in HIPPY.

Participation: Having been made aware of the commitment and my responsibilities, I agree to comply with and commit to the HIPPY requirements.

Participation: I have read and received a copy of the parent handbook and I release the HIPPY program from any and all liability associated with my family's participation.

Participation: My child has my permission to attend field trips sponsored by the HIPPY Program while being accompanied by me or a representative of my family that is over the age of 18. I (or my representative) assume all responsibility for my child while attending a field trip and/or parent group meeting and I will not hold the HIPPY Program, program host agency, or their representatives responsible for incidents or accidents.

Participation: The program is free. The only costs of participation will be the time spent in program activities. Taking part in this program is voluntary and you may withdraw from the services at any time.

Confidentiality: If you agree to participate in this program, we will make every reasonable effort to maintain the confidentiality of your information. We will be participating in an evaluation of the program which is required by our funders (the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)). We will share your information with an outside evaluator. The information we share will be used for evaluation purposes and you will not be identified by name in any report or other materials produced. If requested, we would also be required to share your information but not your name with the funders of the program. Further, we are mandatory reporters under the laws of Arkansas, which requires us to report any child abuse or any intention you have to hurt yourself or others.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) gets money from the federal government for the home visiting program. The ADH has to report to the government every year. Part of the report is about children who are part of an abuse investigation after they join the home visiting program. To be able to report this, the ADH will give the names and birthdates of all children in the home visiting program to the Arkansas Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) one time every year.

The DCFS will check to see if any of the children are part of an investigation. The DCFS will only report the number of investigations and will not give any child's name. The report will not have information about your family. The ADH and DCFS will obey all privacy laws. All names and birthdates will be protected from illegal use.

Media Release: I allow a representative of the HIPPY Program to take photos of my child that may be used for scrapbooking purposes, advertising purposes, or other purposes that support the integrity of the program. I also allow news releases to include my child's name/activity in articles that support the integrity of the program.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

HIPPY Staff Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Home Visiting Program

PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR _____ HOME VISITING PROGRAM TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO OR OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM:

Name of Requesting/Providing Agency _____

Address of Agency _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

REGARDING: Reason for Release of Information _____

Child's Name _____

Birthdate _____ Child's SSN# _____

Documents to be released: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I give my permission for the release of psychological, medical, educational, case history, or related information from my child's file as an enrollee in the _____ Home Visiting Program. I understand this information will be incorporated into my child's record in the agency listed above. I understand that _____ Home Visiting Program must, without exception, adhere to PL 94-142, which includes the Confidentiality Sections 300-561, 563, 564, 571, 572, and 573.

Requested information may be released (faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered by _____

_____ **Home Visiting Program representative) to/from the above listed agency:**

Guardian/Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Witness Title and Signature _____ Date _____

Program Coordinator _____ Date _____

Home Visiting Program Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

TEN TIPS FOR READING BOOKS WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER

1. Read together every day.
2. Take your child to the library.
3. Let your child pick the book.
4. Find a comfortable place to read.
5. Start with the cover of the book.
6. Read with feeling!
7. Don't rush your reading.
8. Let your child join in and ask questions.
9. It's okay to change the story.
10. Help your child relate to the story or characters.





HIPPY Arkansas
Since 1986

For Additional Information Contact:

www.hippyarkansas.org