



HIPPY

homeroom

A Newsletter for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Staff Edition

January 2016

Volume 1, Issue 26

Upcoming Events January

AHVN Training: Stuttgart- Responding and Reporting Child Abuse and neglect and Strategies to Keep Home Visitors Safe	11th
International Skeptics Day (<i>Are you sure?</i>)	13th
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	18th
AHVN Training: Little Rock- 3 Day MIECHV Overview, plus ETO, Family Map, and ASQ/ASQSE Training	19-21st
Compliment Day <i>What a great day!</i>	20th
AHVN Training: Arkadelphia- Importance of Fathers and Strategies to Support Family Engagement in Home Visiting	25th
AHVN Training: Springdale- How To manage Your Time Well and Increase Organizational Skills and Strategies to Support Family Engagement in Home Visiting	29th
HIPPY/PAT Winter Coordinator's Institute-Little Rock	February 3rd



State Manager's Spotlight—by Tyra Greenwood

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

As we get back into our normal routines of seeing families, it is important to remember that this is the time of year that many families start to drop from or lose interest in the program. Therefore, now is the time for us to step up our efforts to keep families engaged and interested.

We know that when parents stop participating in HIPPY, the whole family loses out, particularly the children that benefit from the HIPPY program.

While it is hard for all of us to come back from the long winter break and get back on our hectic schedules, I hope you realize that your efforts to stay positive and in good communication with your families are more important than ever.

Being a good listener and helping families to problem solve through their issues will go a long way in helping families feel valued and hopefully encourage them to find a way to remain in the HIPPY program.

By doing our part to make the HIPPY program a beneficial part of each families life, we can keep families engaged and ultimately offer them a better chance at success in the future.

HIPPY Updates



Start Your HIPPY Accreditation Preparations Early

If you are up for a HIPPY USA accreditation this year, make sure that you are getting your documents together now and working on your organization a little bit each month so as not to have to rush in the weeks before your Accreditation visit. **Make sure to refer to the Accreditation Binders that you were given this summer at the Coordinator's Institute** to help you with your organization and documentation. Please contact your assigned trainer with any questions or concerns you may have.

15 Week Brigance Assessment

Many of your programs are approaching the 15 week mark, if you have not done so already. Please make sure that you are conducting your 15 week Brigance assessment for all children, entering the data into the Brigance On-line

Management System and conferencing with parents about the results. Parents must **sign and date** the conference record and a copy of the conference record should be placed in the child's file.

ABC Site Monitoring

Lacye has already begun scheduling her ABC monitoring visits for the 2015-2016 program year. Please make sure that your files are organized and neat so that they can be easily reviewed during your visit. We recommend that you take time to review all of your child and staff folders prior to the monitoring visit in case something is missing and a document needs to be obtained.

Final NHBE Training

There will be a final NHBE training in Little Rock on Jan. 11-12, 2016. If you have any new staff that need to attend or veterans that could use a refresher, please let us know ASAP if they

will be attending. Coordinators are also welcome to attend. Please e-mail Ilyssa Foxx at foxxik@archildrens.org to reserve a spot for the training.

On-line Trainings Available

The Arkansas Home Visiting Network has several on-line training modules just for home-visitors. Participants can receive TAPP hours for completing the trainings. Topics include: Cross Cultural Competency for Home Visitors, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Working Effectively with Teen Parents, and Helping Grandfamilies to Succeed. Visit arhomevisiting.org, click on "Training", then AHVN Training Institute, and "Online Training Modules" to sign up.

Winter Coordinator Training

The winter Coordinator Institute is being held at the Holiday Inn Presidential in Little Rock on Feb. 3, 2016 from 9am-4pm. See you there!

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.



Martin Luther King, Jr.
American activist
(1929-1968)
QuoteHD.com

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Family Retention Strategies

As we reach the midway point of the year and the holidays are over, there is a tendency for some parents to want to drop from the HIPPY program. Retaining these families through this period is especially important for your programs as well as for those families. Below are some helpful ideas to help with retention:

1. Make sure to provide interesting and engaging group meetings .

Provide hands-on, active experiences that parents and children will really enjoy.

- 2. Big Mid-Year Door Prize.** Work with your local community partners to secure a worthwhile door prize that will encourage parents to continue with the program in order to be in the drawing. Make the door prize available to all families that complete their weekly lessons as well as attend group meetings, providing more chances to win.

- 3. Certificate Ceremonies.** Hold certificate ceremonies for those children reaching the 10, 20, and 30 week mark in their lessons. Make it a mini celebration with snacks and juice.

***Alternatively: Provide the certi-*



icates to families that cannot come to group meetings and help them set a goal to get the next certificate level. Contact the HIPPY Arkansas State Office if you need copies of these certificates sent to you.

- 5. Start Practicing.** Let parents know that there will be an end of year celebration/ceremony and you want their children to be in it. In order to do so, they will need to attend the group meetings, where practices are being held.

6. Make Families Feel Wanted. All families considering dropping from the program, should receive a personal visit/ phone call from the program coordinator to determine any issues or needs not being met and work with the family to find solutions that will keep them in the program.

- 7. Be A Good Listener.** Make sure that you are taking time before you start your lessons to talk to the parent, ask how things are going. Talk to them about why lessons are missing and what you can do to help. Odds are that there will be warning signs for a



few weeks before a parent decides to drop the program. Pay attention and you may be able to work through the issues with the parent.

- 8. Provide Stellar Customer Service.** Acknowledging birthdays and other major life events for your families will help build stronger relationships and ties to the HIPPY program. Make sure to have good communication with families-return calls or texts as promptly as possible, share additional information that may be of interest to them, and remind them of upcoming events. Also, praise and recognize parents for their commitment to the program and to their children. Doing small, extra things for families will have a big impact.

- 9. Conduct An Exit Survey.** When families are intent on dropping the program, ask them to complete a short exit survey to help you determine the main causes of drop-out as well as what can be done better or differently in the future. Find examples at HIPPYUSA.com under Program Administration-Program Surveys.

Talking Point of the Month: Fathers Read in February- Read-a-Thon



This year the HIPPY Arkansas State Office is sponsoring the 1st Annual Fathers Read in February Read-a-Thon for all enrolled HIPPY families. The goal of the Read-A-Thon is to encourage the fathers/male figures in our HIPPY children's lives to make reading time an important part of their relationship.

Fathers/male figures play a key role in setting the educational expectations for a child's life and through this Read-A-Thon, HIPPY hopes to engage more fathers/male figures to get involved in the educational process.

All coordinators will receive the Read-A-Thon Guidelines as well as the information sheet and reading logs to share with all HIPPY families. Each family should be given a reading log and instructions about the Read-A-Thon **prior to the February 1, 2016 start date.**

All guidelines should be reviewed with each family, including instructions to start the Read-A-Thon on Feb. 1, 2016. Reading logs will be picked up from each HIPPY house after Feb. 29, 2016. If there are two HIPPY children in a home, they can complete one reading log for both children or separate ones for each child.

Prizes will be awarded to the top reading father/male figure for each HBE, coordinator, and at the state level. The HIPPY Arkansas State Office will send you customizable certificates to present to the top readers for each HBE, as well as a prize for the top reading father/male figure per coordinator.

Each coordinator needs to submit her top reading father/male figure's reading log to the State Office by March 11, 2016 to be considered for the state-wide prize. Reading logs can be submitted via e-mail to foxxik@archildrens.org.