

Get to know...

HIPPY

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

ENGLEWOOD, NJ

The HIPPY program 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.

A Love of Learning Begins at Home.



Starting at Home

"HIPPY is about families, about parents taking an interest in their kid's lives and their futures. My own success in life goes back to the greatest gift my parents ever gave me as a child: the gift of curiosity and the will to conquer the unknown. HIPPY gives to children this same gift of curiosity and wonder about the world around them."
- Senator John Glenn, 1994

The HIPPY program helps parents teach their three, four- and five-year olds at home. Parents spend fifteen minutes a day at the kitchen table with a story book, a puzzle, or a learning game, helping children enter kindergarten ready to learn. Parents in HIPPY programs are trained by home visitors, themselves parents from the community. They are also supported by other participants and a local program coordinator. They belong to a growing network of parents and educators of grandparents, kindergarten teachers, community organizers, and policymakers, who have seen firsthand how this home-based educational program benefits families and helps build communities.

HIPPY came to the US in 1984 and is currently serving 16,000 families and children across the country, in both English and Spanish. HIPPY is for any parents who want educational enrichment for their child, but the model was specially designed to remove barriers to participation caused by poverty, lack of education or social isolation. The model is also adaptable to the specific needs of individual parents, and of diverse families and communities.

The Basics: Parents & Children

"HIPPY has not only enhanced my daughter's abilities, but mine as a parent. HIPPY has made me more involved with her studies, and I believe that is the key to a child's learning- a parent's true involvement."
- HIPPY Parent.

The HIPPY program builds on the basic bond between parent and child. Supported by easy-to-use activity packets home visits, and group meetings. HIPPY parents learn how to prepare their children for success in school and beyond. Throughout their children's third, fourth, and fifth years, parents receive a progressive series of ninety weekly packets of daily activities. Through role-playing with home visitors, parents practice these activities. Every other week they attend group meetings with other parents and HIPPY staff. Learning and playing mingle throughout HIPPY's structured curriculum as parents teach their children phonological awareness (including phonemic awareness and phonics) shape and color recognition, to follow directions, to solve logical problems, and other school readiness skills.

The programs benefit to children – its capacity to develop both skills and confidence – is obvious, both from personal testimonies and from studies of the program in the United States. Research has shown that teachers rate children who had been in HIPPY as significantly better adapted to the classroom than those who had not participated in the program.

For the parents in the program, many of whom must deal with barriers caused by lack of education, poverty, and social isolation, HIPPY provides:

- an enhanced sense of their own abilities.
- the satisfaction of teaching their own children.
- an opportunity for both fun and learning with their children.
- the support and guidance of trained home visitors who are peers from the community.
- a bridge to the agencies and organizations that may help with other concerns, from lead poisoning to domestic violence to obtaining a GED.