

25th March 2024 | HIPPY US | info@hippyus.org

Special Announcements

The Spring Class of 2024 Coordinators attended preservice at The Arkansas State Office. The blend of supervisors, seasoned coordinators, and new coordinators offered HIPPY US a distinctive opportunity for new coordinators to collaborate with experienced ones to acquire the knowledge and skills essential to be a successful HIPPY Coordinator. Getting to witness some refine their skillset while others gathered new ones was truly inspiring.

Thank you to the hardy 25 participants who really worked hard at completing all the sessions, both online and in person. These participants ranked their overall preservice experience at an average rating of 4.25 out of 5!



Congratulations Graduates!!!

Fiscal Considerations

As you prepare your 2024-2025 budgets here are a few items to keep in mind:

- **Licensing fees** will be:
 - \$6325 for sites with one coordinator
 - \$1725 each additional coordinator
 - \$860 each additional assistant coordinator
- **Special Events** during the conference, attendees can join optional activities at cost:
 - Avima Gala: \$100 - \$125
 - Fun Night Out: \$75 - \$100
- **Vendor Setup** is now in progress. If you would like to add HIPPY US as a vendor please complete [this](#) form. Moving forward HUS will not use 3rd party organizations for Preservice or Conference.

Nikki's Corner

As many of us step out from the confines of our homes and workplaces, there's a palpable pause to relish the warmth of the sun. Following a challenging winter season, layers are gradually shed, and the first signs of rejuvenation greet us. Whether it's the blossoming of flowers or families embracing more outdoor activities, the arrival of a new season is unmistakable.

The growth we experience at HIPPY mirrors the cycles of nature. Some seasons feel enduringly long, while others seem fleeting, yet there's solace in the inevitability of change, knowing that a new season awaits. Reflecting on my time at HIPPY USA in New York City over 15 years ago, I recall the request for modernization echoing through the field. Though it required time and restructuring, here we stand today. Over the past four years, we've transitioned to a fully digital curriculum option, better known as 3.0 and streamlined our pre-service with virtual sessions, minimizing time Coordinators spend away from sites. Our progression is deeply rooted in your feedback, it is your input that has us examining standards, the accreditation process and updating the curriculum. All of this while we create a summer bridge program and launch NASD-CORP. With sites at the heart of this process, we're charting a new course.

While our journey towards our goals may not always be swift, there's reassurance in knowing we'll get there together. Our shared HIPPY heart and deep knowledge serve as the driving force propelling us forward. As always, I invite your insights and ideas to shape our path ahead.

Wishing you a joyous Spring, Nikki
HIPPY National Program Director

P.S. We eagerly anticipate sharing insights gleaned from the open comment period in our upcoming edition.

Accreditation Completion

Congratulations to the following **sites**:

- Imperial Valley, CA
- Milwaukee, WI
- Rio Grande Valley, TX
- Irving, TX
- Clarke County, AL
- Goodwill Gulf Coast, AL
- Macon County, AL
- Wilcox County, AL

National Conference April 6 - 9, 2025

We are looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore, Maryland. To learn more about the conference or join in on the planning go [here](#).



Program Highlight: HIPPY in Arkansas

In the month of February, five new Home Visitors completed a two day New Home-Based Educator Training at the state office. Two of the newly trained staff will be participating in the state of Arkansas pilot, HIPPY for caregivers. HIPPY for caregivers provides HIPPY to child care home providers including HIPPY learning materials, curriculum, school supplies, book sets, and incentives for enhancing the home-learning setting. We are proud and admire all of the hard work our HIPPY home visitors, and staff do each day to provide HIPPY in our communities.

HIPPY in the Spotlight South by Southwest Education

Diana Adams and Miriam Westheimer attended SXSWEDU. Diana was on a panel focusing on parent advocacy and did a superb job representing HIPPY and the power of parents.



Diana Adams, HIPPY Calvert County

Other relevant speakers and workshops focused on the Science of Reading debate, AI opportunities and concerns in ECE, and multiple and diverse pathways to professional development. This was certainly an experience unlike most other conferences we have attended and we look forward to thinking together about ways to represent HIPPY next year.



Arkansas' Newest Home Visitors



Thank You Arkansas!

HIPPY US extends **a Special Thanks to the team at the Arkansas State office** for their exceptional hospitality! Your readiness to assist with our every need was invaluable. Your hands-on support played a vital role in making the Spring 2024 Coordinator preservice a success!

Home Visits Standard 3: Families' needs are identified, referrals are made, and follow-up is provided as appropriate.

TIPS on strengthening your referral system:

1. **Parents may not come right out and ask for help.** Spend some time working with home visitors on listening skills, including such techniques as asking open ended questions, requesting clarification, showing interest, paraphrasing and more.
2. **Engage home visitors in Motivational Interviewing (MI) training.** "MI is a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change. It is designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person's own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion." (Miller & Rollnick, 2013, p. 29) (<https://motivationalinterviewing.org/understanding-motivational-interviewing>)
3. **Screening instruments** - whether for depression, domestic violence, parental stress, or children's development - are often required by funding sources. They are an excellent tool to begin a conversation with parents about their specific situation and possible concerns. Home visitor training should include not only the mechanics of administering the assessments, but how to interpret the results, follow up with parents, and which resources are best for referrals related to the instrument.
4. **Enter into partnerships**, secure an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), or develop a working relationship with referral resources in your community. This can include learning about their enrollment process, having a specific contact for HIPPY parents, or simply having materials from the partner agency available to share with parents as needed.
5. **Use factual, objective language on referral forms** - through training, hands on practice, and feedback from coordinator, home visitors are expected to write referrals that are concise and objective. Opinions, judgements and unnecessary detail should be avoided.
6. **Provide information, support and follow up to parents and home visitors** throughout the process. Some referrals may be highly sensitive, relate to traumatic events in the family or be triggering to home visitors themselves. Reflective supervision can be very helpful as a platform for support and follow up for home visitors.

National Webinars:

- Reflective Supervision - Building Better Relationships
 - **April 24, 2024**
 - noon PT, 1pm MT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET
 - Join [here](#)
- HIPPY 3.0 Demo
 - **May 22, 2024**
 - 11am PT, 12pm MT, 1pm CT, 2pm ET.
 - Join [here](#)
- Summer Curriculum informational meeting
 - **April 8th, 2024**
 - 10 am est, 9 am cst, 8 am mst, 7 am pst
 - [Register here!](#)

Coordinator Preservice

Summer Coordinator Preservice is going to Baltimore! Get ready, HIPPY US Coordinators! Registration for the summer 2024 Coordinator Preservice opens on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024. Space is limited, secure your spot early by clicking this [registration link](#).



Advocacy

Movement on Expanded Child Tax Credit

Last month, the House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, which includes a three-year expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Under the current CTC plan, any parent of a child younger than 17 who makes between \$2,500 and \$200,000 annually qualifies for the credit up to a refundable amount of \$1,600. This new legislation increases the maximum refundable amount to \$1,800 for the 2023 tax year, meaning that if Congress moves quickly enough families could claim it when filing this April. For tax year 2024, it would increase to \$1,900 and increase again to \$2,000 in tax year 2025. If it passes into law, the new CTC is poised to help lift thousands of children out of poverty by 2025.

Critics are concerned that the new legislation is more modest than the pandemic-era support that expired last year, and doesn't provide enough aid for enough families. Supporters in the Senate are hoping to consider the legislation in the coming weeks, but outstanding work on Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations is slowing down progress. For now, tax experts are encouraging families to hold off, if they can, on filing their taxes in case this legislation is signed into law before the April 15th tax filing deadline. We encourage you to share this information with others.

Lead Found in Cinnamon Products, FDA Reports

The FDA has issued a statement advising consumers to check the cinnamon products in their pantries, as product testing shows that products from six distributors contain elevated levels of lead. The contaminated cinnamon products are the low-cost options found at dollar and other discount stores. Though a full recall is not yet in place, the FDA is advising consumers to throw away and not to buy these ground cinnamon products. As a reminder, high levels of exposure to lead during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood can lead to neurological effects in children such as learning disabilities, behavior difficulties, and lowered IQ. Check the [link here](#) for a full list of recalled products.

HIPPY Network Advocacy Working Group

Are you interested in learning more about advocacy and to share strategies within the HIPPY network? HIPPY US is looking to start an advocacy working group that would meet quarterly to discuss advocacy strategies, funding opportunities, etc. more in depth. If this is something you are interested in participating in, please email our federal advocacy lead, [Suzi Plasencia](#), to let her know of your interest.

Special Initiatives

Vroom

If you have curriculum with QR Codes, remember to encourage families to check out the extension activities provided by Vroom.

NASD-CORP Project

Is underway. For more information go [here](#).

Curriculum Refresh

Committees are still busily at work. If you have questions or want to share feedback reach out to: [Terri Meehan](#)

Stay Connected

Library

For additional resources, visit the [library](#).

Library Password: Destination

Website and Library Feedback

We would like your feedback about our website and library using [this](#) short survey.

Newsletter Request

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list of newsletter recipients click [this](#) link to complete a request.

Newsletter Feedback

What would you like to see in the newsletter? Give us your feedback by completing [this](#) short survey