

30 May 2024 | HIPPY US | info@hippyus.org

## Special Announcements

### AP Release

#### “HIPPY” In The National News

We are happy to share, "[Quality early education can be expensive or hard to find. Home visits bring it to more families](#)" has been released!

- The social media kit to support sharing out the article is forthcoming and will be placed in the library for your convenience soon.



Special thanks to those that participated in providing the groundwork for this article:

- **Alabama** - Avis Stallworth-Ellis, Coordinator,
- **Colorado** - Myra Ocampo & Fatema Zamanir, Home Visitors; Melanie Collier, Coordinator; Maria Chavez Contreras Program Manager
- **Texas**- Alejandra Torres, Coordinator & Amanda Pedlar, Home Visitor,
- **Maryland** - Diana Adams, Coordinator
- **HIPPY International** - Miriam Westheimer, Chief Program Officer

### Program Year 23 - 24: End of Year Survey

As we approach the end of the school year, HIPPY International would like your help in improving the upcoming Program Year (24 - 25). Please provide your feedback by completing the [End of Year Survey](#).

## Nikki's Corner

What a year it has been! For many, it's time for some well-needed rest, while others are diving into summer activities and continuing with the bridge curriculum. We've accomplished so much together, and though it hasn't always been easy, it's heartening to be part of a community dedicated to amplifying the power of parents in service to their beloved children (check out our article in the Associated Press). As Joy Winchester said at kickoff, HIPPY is our "occu-passion."

This year we've seen many firsts. We launched NASD-Corp to support families with children on the spectrum and created the first bridge curriculum with input from state leaders in Alabama, Florida, and Texas, which incorporates stories from New Zealand and Australia. Your involvement has been crucial, from updating the MGRA through testing Vroom to providing feedback via numerous surveys. While we may have overdone the surveys, we are committed to streamlining this process. For the final time in the 23-24 program year, please complete: **End of Year and Curriculum Survey** in the newsletter.

To add to the many firsts, we changed printers at the end of this program year. We fully expect the new vendor to provide better service. We appreciate everyone's understanding during this quick transition. As with any change, there may be questions and issues, and we are here to address them. While perfection isn't guaranteed, you can always count on us to listen and integrate your feedback.

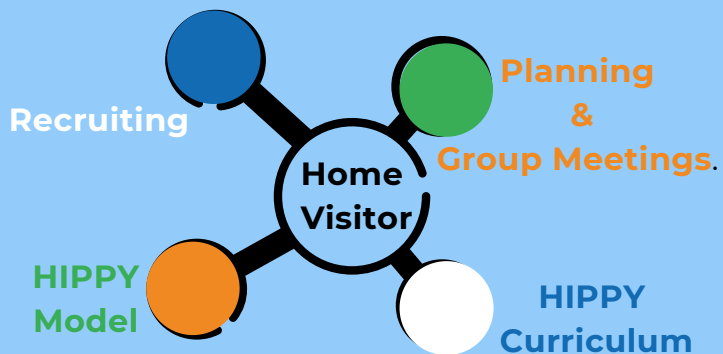
Our training team, Carla Mowel and Terri Meehan, have been diligently revamping and providing supplemental home visitor coursework, national webinars, and a refined preservice training based on your input. Not to mention a refined MGRA and accreditation process is coming your way. The Program Support Manager, Shaqula Parks is busy supporting the national conference committee and getting the first virtual HUS store online.

As we look forward, we're enthusiastic about what we can achieve together in the coming year. Thank you for being a vital part of this community. Let's continue to learn and grow together. To chat, reach out to Nikki [here](#).

## Home Visitor Online Training Modules Order the Best Practices for Home Visitors

[here](#) We are thrilled to introduce new online learning modules for HIPPY home visitors. Offered at \$35 per module or \$120 for the full bundle of 4.

**These modules will equip home visitors with essential skills in:**

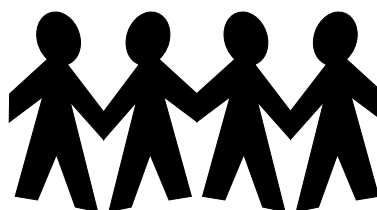


## Program Highlight: HIPPY in Colorado

During the month of April, Parent Possible-Sate Office for HIPPY in Colorado, hosted their annual Home Visiting Conference – Together We Move Mountains!



Fatema Zamani from Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning -HIPPY was recognized with the HIPPY Home of the Year Award. Fatema received the award from Dwight Steele, Colorado HIPPY Pioneer and Jackie Cordova, HIPPY Program Director. Fatema received the award while holding her daughter Kaenat's hand, who is also a HIPPY child. This added a deeply personal and poignant dimension, underscoring the program's emphasis on family engagement. This moment encapsulates the heartwarming and transformative essence of the HIPPY program's mission.



For more on Colorado go [here](#)

## Feedback Highlights from Our Recent MGRA Open Comment Period

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the MGRA document and accreditation process! Your insights are key in helping us improve our resources and training offerings. Overall, respondents rated the document as moderately to highly useful, with most ratings falling between 3 and 4 out of 5. Many of you appreciated its clarity and ease of implementation, noting the benefits in understanding families and children better. However, you also expressed a need for more detailed explanations and better alignment with real-world scenarios. Additional training and more comprehensive guidance were common suggestions. We are committed to addressing these areas and enhancing our support to better meet your needs. Thank you for your continued engagement and constructive feedback!

## Things to Think About and Do: MGRA Inspired

**Role Play Standard 3: During staff meetings and home visits, each home visitor has activity packets and props. Home Visitors have a Home Visitor Guide for each level of curriculum reviewed.**

### TIPS:

1. Together review the props needed for the whole year and identify any materials that you may need to provide to parents, such as yarn, pudding mix, etc.
2. Develop a system to organize your office props (giant ziploc bags, plastic shoe bins, pizza size boxes). Gather and update the props annually to ensure you're ready for weekly role play.
3. Give each home visitor the packet for the next week so they have time to prepare the cutouts and props for the packet, so it does not take time during the weekly team role play training.
4. Start each role play with a "prop check" each week. Making this your standard practice ensures that every home visitor will be ready every week to take materials out into the homes.
5. Ask your most organized home visitors to present their tips, systems and styles of organizing their curriculum materials with the rest of the team. People always learn so much from seeing how others do the same job, and this also recognizes the skills of various team members.
6. Bring the Home Visitor Guide to life by asking home visitors to read passages aloud during team role play, and asking questions that require them to look up the answer in the Guide.

## Bridge Curriculum

Missed our recent online training session for the HIPPY US Bridge Curriculum?

Don't worry! You can still catch up on the valuable insights shared. Access the [presentation slides](#) and [recording of the session here](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to **reach out to us** directly [with this form](#).

To place your order today email [this form](#) or call [Christine Taranto \(800-243-9232, Ext. 2273\)](#) at S&S Worldwide, she will be happy to assist you.

### April 2024: HIPPY Leadership Meeting

During our visit to Baltimore, MD we had the chance to tour the Lord Baltimore Hotel (where the next Coordinator Preservice AND the HIPPY US National Conference will be held) and visit with some of our local HIPPY coordinators. To learn more about the conference (April 6 - 9, 2025) go [here](#).



Left to right: **Jani Johnson** (AL HIPPY); **Sapphire Jackson** (Family League Baltimore); **Terri Meehan** (HUS); **Diana Adams** (Calvert Co MD); **Lee Johnson-Lowe** (Hotel Manager); and **Nikki Martin-Bynum** (HUS).

## Advocacy

### Health Insurance Open Enrollment Extended

The Biden administration recently extended the window for low-income Americans to join Obamacare in an effort to minimize the number of people losing coverage during the Medicaid unwinding period.

New data indicates that the uninsured rate in the United States held steady at a near-record low of 7.7 percent during the final quarter of 2023, but experts anticipate that this rate will rise in 2024. The Medicaid expansion provided during the COVID public health emergency ended earlier this year, prompting states to redetermine eligibility and remove those who are ineligible from coverage.

Check out [this link](#) for more information on coverage options. Many of the families you work with may be impacted by this change and may find this resource helpful.

## Vendor Setup

If your program needs W-9 information for a vendor set up for:

- Conference/Preservice/HIPPY Swag - Go [here](#) (**this form has been updated as of 5/28/24**)
- Curriculum/Fees/ 3.0 - Go [here](#)



- Take the End of Year Survey
- Complete the Printer Survey
- Order Your Bridge Curriculum
- Complete Vendor Setup
- Register for Coordinator Preservice
- Register for Online HV Training Modules
- Read the HIPPY Article

Have a Happy HIPPY Summer!!!!

## Upcoming Events

### Coordinator Preservice

2024 Summer Coordinator Preservice is going to Baltimore and registration is now open! Have you reserved your spot? If not, secure your spot early by clicking this [registration link](#). Remember, space is limited!

## Stay Connected

### Library

For additional resources, visit the HIPPY [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