

8 July 2024 | HIPPY US | info@hippyus.org

Nikki's Corner

I had a conversation with Dr. Miriam Westheimer, Chief Program Officer at HIPPY International recently. She mentioned the significance of HIPPY US collaborating with two countries for the HIPPY US Bridge Curriculum. Reflecting on this journey sheds light not only on what it is but also on its importance in the history of HIPPY. Let's delve into this special message below.

Nikki Martin-Bynum
National Program Director

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For quite some time, I had envisioned sharing the HIPPY curriculum, especially the HIPPY storybooks, worldwide. Each country has tailored the original core curriculum to suit its unique cultural and linguistic setting. I always dreamed of families from different countries experiencing a taste of the same program. This year, when the field proposed a summer program, now known as the Bridge Curriculum, we saw a perfect opportunity. The idea was to allow HIPPY families to explore other countries through books, immersing themselves in different cultures and languages. We began with Australia and New Zealand. Together with a HIPPY US curriculum committee, we selected six books that showcase the distinct cultures and languages of these countries. After choosing the books, we reviewed and adapted the activities to meet the expectations of HIPPY families in the US. Additionally, we included open-ended projects for families to enjoy during the leisurely summer months or whenever the curriculum is utilized.

The introduction of this supplemental curriculum does not affect the evidence-based core curriculum used by all HIPPY programs. It is not meant to replace the core curriculum and its usage is entirely optional for programs. It was developed in response to the need for year-round programming and the desire to offer more to families during the summer. This supplement, known as the Bridge Curriculum, can be utilized during any program break, not just in the summer.

HIPPY Australia and HIPPY New Zealand are well-established national programs funded by their respective governments. Both have conducted extensive research and, like HIPPY US, have demonstrated significant benefits for children, parents, and home visitors. While incorporating a portion of their program into our supplemental curriculum does not replace our evidence-based core curriculum, I am confident that our families will engage in well-structured, thoroughly researched activities used in other HIPPY programs.

This concept is gaining traction as HIPPY Chile, HIPPY Argentina, and HIPPY Paraguay have shown interest in incorporating this supplement. HIPPY Australia and HIPPY New Zealand are considering incorporating some HIPPY US books to provide culturally enriching experiences for their families. Perhaps we can even organize global parent exchanges? The possibilities are endless.

I hope this explanation clarifies the concept of the Bridge Curriculum. I am eager to hear your thoughts and feedback. Please feel free to email me at miriam@hippy-international.org.

Thank you!

Miriam Westheimer, Chief Program Officer at HIPPY International

Special Announcements

HIPPY Model Fidelity Specialists Open Position

Would you like to be a Model Fidelity Specialist

(formerly known as a National Trainer)?

HIPPY US is relaunching the HIPPY model fidelity and implementation support process.

The support provided by a Model Fidelity Specialist is to provide every program with the opportunity to identify and share their program strengths and challenges, resulting in a shared process of identifying quality improvement strategies.

For more information about the HIPPY Model Fidelity Specialist and how to apply, go [here!](#)

2025 National Conference

The HIPPY US Conference Committee is excited to host you at the 2025 HIPPY US National Conference at the Lord Baltimore Hotel
April 6 - 9, 2025
For the pricelist go [here](#).

Special Projects

Curriculum Refresh

This project is underway and if you would like to get involved in the 24-25 year, please notify [Terri Meehan](#)

NASD-CORP Project

Is now complete and a 2nd cohort will go through the process in the upcoming year. For more about this project go [here](#).

Printer Updates from S&S Worldwide

When can I order the core HIPPY curriculum?

- Now. Curriculum orders are being taken and processed by S&S. All orders and quotes should be submitted on the [order form](#) via email. Please provide full billing, shipping and contact information, and submit. Christine Taranto is available for any questions. She can be reached by email (ctaranto@ssww.com) or by phone (1 800 842-7730 ext. 2273).
- *Note:* To customize the order form, you must download it first!

How can payments be made?

- By ACH, credit card or check

Can I place an order before I have payment ready?

- Yes, orders placed with a purchase order can be made prior to payment. You can use a purchase order which will mean you will have credit on account with S&S WORLDWIDE. Orders with payments on terms will ship upon receipt.

How long will it take to receive the order?

- Shipments will go out 2-5 days after orders are placed. [Please note we are in the process of completing all inventory so some orders placed in advance may be shipped separately.]

Can I still use curriculum I have from last year?

- Yes, the curriculum content has not changed. It would be wasteful to not use curriculum just because of an old logo and some formatting changes. HIPPY US is also using all leftover inventory before printing more. Please note when new activity packets are printed, they will be two-sided. This is being done to save on paper and to keep costs down in spite of a big increase in cost of paper. Of course, all activity pages that require cutting and pasting etc. will be one-sided. Pull-out pages will sometimes be two-sided and sometimes one-sided depending on the activity.

Will online ordering be available?

- Yes, it is being worked on and will be available in Fall 2024. During these transitional few months, we are grateful to have Christine handling all orders in person so that there are no miscommunications.

Anything else to expect?

- S&S is working to prepare a HIPPY kit that will include all the basic supplies families need for the activities. Stay tuned for more information...

If you have additional questions, you can submit them [here!](#)

Home Visits Standard 4: Between weekly home visits, parents complete each week’s activity packet with their child(ren). And, Home Visits Standard 5: At least eighty percent (80%) of the children enrolled complete 26 weeks per program year.

TIPS for ensuring that parents keep up with weekly packets:

1. **During the recruitment and enrollment phase, make clear, repeat, and reiterate the commitment required**, ie. weekly home visits for 30 weeks, parents working with their child for 15-20 minutes per day 5 days a week.
2. **During enrollment, talk with parents about their hopes and dreams for their child.** Document them on their file and revisit along the way. Help parents see how the weekly activities are bringing them closer to their dreams for their child.
3. **Celebrate along the way** - at various intervals along the way - for example, weeks 10, 20, or half way (week 15) - celebrate and congratulate children and parents for sticking with the program. If funding allows, provide a small gift, voucher, or gift card.
4. **Prepare for the post-holiday blues** - most families who drop out will leave during the first few weeks, or just after the holidays. Over-recruiting by 20-25% will help you refill open slots at the beginning of the year, but other strategies may be needed for the post-holiday slump. Knowing it’s coming up, strategize with your home visitors on how to manage that post-holiday season. For example, you can share with parents that we know it’s hard to get back in the groove after the holidays and ask them what will help keep them motivated, or perhaps plan an extra fun group activity such as a field trip right after the holidays to look forward to.
5. **Weekly motivation** - a 30 week sticker chart, small “party favor” type give-away, or distribution of “HIPPY Bucks” each week can keep the motivation coming all year long!
6. **Catching families up who fall behind** - sometimes families fall behind no matter how hard we work at keeping them on track. Doubling up on weekly packets may be used judiciously (although, for a family in crisis or facing multiple challenges, asking them to do MORE may not be realistic). Other strategies can include, making a plan with the family, such as taking a short break, then doubling up every other week; or discussing how a packet can be broken into a morning and afternoon session for a child whose attention is short. Reach out to your trainer or state office to brainstorm other strategies.

June 26, 2024 brought the public start of the Congressional process to determine how much funding will be allocated to federal agencies working on health, education, and labor in Fiscal Year 2025. While some details still need to be filled in, the opening proposal in the House bill was pretty much as we expected.

On the morning of June 26, 2024, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Aderholt of Alabama released his proposed legislation. His proposal provided an overall 11% cut to the bill, which was expected and is not dissimilar to what the House proposed last year. Within those cuts, Title I funding was cut by 25%, which is substantial but is a better starting place than the program faced last year. As a reminder, last year's House bill proposed an 80% cut to Title I and we were able to avoid the cut and instead successfully secure a slight increase in funding when it was all said and done. You may start to hear from folks both at the national level and within your states about these proposed cuts, and while they are to be taken seriously, they are incredibly unlikely to stick especially as advocates begin the work of raising the alarm against them.

This is a long process that technically has a deadline of October 1, but in reality, will not wrap up until sometime after the election in November. The final appropriations bills sent to the President for signature late this year or early next year will undergo many changes. Again, while the cuts that are proposed in the House are concerning, they by no means will be the final numbers and we expect to see funding restored by the Senate to many of these programs. As always, I will provide updates when substantial developments occur and please reach out if you have any questions or would like to hop on a call to discuss further.

-Suzi

We are entering the 5th program year with the digital version of HIPPY 3.0 and it's a great opportunity to share some information about the system. Here are a few questions we've heard from several people:

Is HIPPY 3.0 available for all ages in Spanish and in English?

- HIPPY 3.0 is available for LL, Year 1, and Year 2 in Spanish and in English.

Is HIPPY 3.0 used for in-person visits?

- Absolutely! HIPPY 3.0 was designed for in-person visits and makes it easier for the Home Visitors as they deal with less logistics.

Do we need to be connected to the internet while using 3.0?

- Yes, HIPPY 3.0 requires an internet connection and even with a slower connection you can use it, since the data footprint is not large. However, you do need a stable connection.

Does HIPPY 3.0 suit only tech-savvy parents?

- HIPPY 3.0 is very user-friendly and most parents get it in a few minutes.

Can a site use HIPPY 3.0 with some of the families and the printed curriculum with others?

- Yes! However, we recommend home visitors do either 3.0 or printed, so if your site has more than one Home Visitor, there should be a 3.0 Home Visitor and a printed material Home Visitor.

Why should we consider implementing HIPPY 3.0 with our families?

- HIPPY 3.0 has many strengths including: reduced price, less paper usage, proven data on success and challenges, and more accessibility for the parents.

Who shouldn't consider implementing 3.0?

- Sites in areas with low connectivity should probably wait till the connectivity improves.

How do we join?

- You can order licenses for users with S&S.

How can we get more information on 3.0?

- Drop us a line at Info@hippy-international.org and we will answer your questions or schedule a demo.

Kickoff

Another program year is coming to a close, which means it's time to start fresh with HIPPY US' Annual Kickoff, September 18, 2024.

Stay tuned for your official invite!

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



- **Apply** for the Model Fidelity Specialist if interested
- **Submit** your printer questions
- **Order** your core curriculum