

21 November 2024 | HIPPY US | [Request for Support](#)

Nikki's Corner

Greetings HIPPY Fam!

So often, folks in my position hold an orientation that guides their every move. I recognize, some of you may remember me from 20 years ago supporting HIPPYCorps sites at HIPPYUSA and others may have no reference point. No matter where you are, I want to share an excerpt with you of a interview that I did that was turned into an article. In its current form it wasn't used for that purpose, but I want to share my orientation with you and get your take. So please read and feel free to share your thoughts, but also your critique.

Title: Embracing Home Visits: Honoring Parents and Strengthening Communities

In the landscape of early childhood education, home visiting programs represent a beacon of possibility—amplifying parental strengths and nurturing community bonds. Yet, the essence of these programs extends beyond their immediate educational scope, offering profound lessons in societal engagement and identity building. As we lean into the evolving narrative of what it means to be a home visitor, it becomes crucial to recognize the nuanced roles parents play, not just as the first teachers of their children, but as integral architects of community change.

To truly honor the spirit of home visiting, we need to celebrate these models not just as educational tools, but as catalysts for civic engagement. With reports showing increased civic involvement among parents who participate in programs like HIPPY, we witness firsthand the blooming of parental confidence and community advocacy. Parents move beyond passive roles to become active participants in their communities, influencing local policies and championing causes that affect not only their children but the collective future.

In policy discussions, recognizing the multifaceted impact of home visiting is essential. Investment in these programs goes beyond preparing children for school. It builds a robust network of informed and active citizens. Parents, given the right tools and support, extend their influence beyond the home and classrooms, joining hands in broader efforts to foster thriving communities.

Home visiting programs are about more than instructing parents on how to facilitate their child's educational activities. They are powerful platforms for transforming parents into community leaders and advocates, redefining what it means to educate and engage. As we look toward the future, the challenge lies in crafting policies that support both the professional and community aspects of home visiting, ensuring these programs can continue to enrich individual lives while bolstering the community's social fabric. In this balance, the future of home visiting will not only echo its founding roots but also blaze new trails of parental recognition and community resilience. I would love to hear:

- What resonates with you?
- What is challenging you?
- What do you see differently?

As we prepare for some well-needed time off, we should all check-in with the mental models we hold and interrogate them. If something no longer serves you, shed it; if it anchors you commit to uplifting, but just like the parents we have the privilege to serve, never stop learning.

Have a restful break, Nikki

If you would like the full article, contact me at nikki.martin-bynum@hippyus.org

HIPPY International

HIPPY's Global Impact: Connecting Communities Worldwide

HIPPY is proud to have a global presence, with programs thriving in numerous countries. From October 28 to 31, 2024, HIPPY Program Directors from Australia, Canada, Chile, Liberia, and New Zealand gathered in Vancouver, Canada, for four days of enriching and joyful collaboration. Directors from Argentina, Paraguay, and our own Nikki from the U.S. joined us virtually.

During this year's gathering, we had the opportunity to visit two remarkable programs: one at DiverseCity, which serves refugee and immigrant families, and another at the Vancouver Indigenous Friendship Centre, dedicated to Indigenous families. These visits allowed us to explore both the commonalities and unique approaches of HIPPY as it adapts to various community contexts around the world.

We also shared the HIPPY U.S. Bridge curriculum, and our colleagues from New Zealand graciously offered training for new curriculum users. This training aims to uphold the integrity and understanding of Maori language and culture.

Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to learn from our HIPPY partners in New Zealand!

HIPPY In Vancouver, BC Canada



HIPPY in the News

Our very own Miriam Westheimer, Chief Program Officer at HIPPY International, is featured in the U.S. News article, [How Parents Can Help with Kindergarten Readiness](#). Check it out to see her highlighting how parental interaction and stimulation during the early years of a child's life lay the foundation for future learning and growth.

HIPPY's New Bridge Curriculum is now HomVEE approved!

Many home visiting models periodically develop adaptations and enhancements to their model which are reviewed by HomVEE. The new HIPPY Bridge curriculum was submitted as an enhancement to the core HIPPY model and was approved. This change is now live on their website and you can view it here under "Model Services": [Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters \(HIPPY\)® | Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness](#)

Conference Registration

Exciting news! **FREE FREE FREE**

We are thrilled to announce that the **Avima Gala** at this year's conference **will now be free** of charge for all registered attendees! Thanks to generous funding, this offer will be **available for a limited time**, allowing more of our community to come together for this special evening. However, spaces may fill up quickly, so we encourage you to **secure your spot** by registering for the conference **before the early bird deadline on December 8, 2024**.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy the gala at no additional cost—[register](#) today and join us for a night to remember!

Conference Activities Include

- Home Visitor Rally
- Avima Gala
- Opening Session
- Workshops
- HIPPIY Fun Night
- HIPPIY Town Hall
- HIPPIY on the HILL
- Morning Fitness



Room Reservations

Rooms are filling up fast!
[Reserve](#) your room today at the special rate \$189 per night!

Special rates **end March 6, 2025 and are based on availability!**

Exhibitor Hall

Calling All Business Owners!

Are you or someone you know passionate about supporting children and families? Showcase your company by participating as an exhibitor at the HIPPY US National Conference! [Register](#) by February 9, 2025, or [download](#) the flyer for more details.

Call for Proposals

Proposals are in and reviews are underway!

Stay tuned in to find out who will be HIPPY US' 2025 National Conference Presenters!

HIPPY on the Hill is Back!

We are inviting all HIPPYs to join us on **April 9, 2025**, for an exciting opportunity to head to Capitol Hill and educate your Members of Congress and their staff about the exciting and impactful work you are doing at your HIPPY program! **In case you missed it at Kickoff, watch [this](#) brief video for more details.**

Passcode: =0%MF^*d

Vendor Setup

Conference is fast approaching!

Be sure to [submit](#) your HIPPY US vendor request today!

Dr. Avima Lombard Nominations

Now Open!!!

See below for details

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

We are excited to announce that nominations are now open for the Avima Lombard Award 2024–2025! The Dr. Avima D. Lombard Award will honor a Community Agency, Administrator/Coordinator, and a Home Visitor in the United States whose professional services have made a significant contribution to HIPPY and to improving the lives of young children and their families.

How to Nominate:

1. **Click [here](#) to open the nomination form**
2. **Complete the nomination form with the nominee's details and achievements.**
3. **Submit your nomination by January 13th**

We can't wait to celebrate the inspiring individuals and organizations that make a difference in HIPPY. Let's come together to honor excellence!

For more information, please visit
hippyus.org/conference

DON'T MISS OUT—NOMINATE TODAY!



IF YOU HAVE ANY CHALLENGES
SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATIONS
PLEASE EMAIL INFO@HIPPYUS.ORG.

Meet the new HIPPY US Model Fidelity Specialists

In alignment with the HIPPY ethic of peer-to-peer support, this team was recruited from among the field of current, experienced coordinators. These proven professionals will be sharing their expertise, experience and passion for HIPPY with sites across the nation.



I have been the HIPPY program coordinator for the past 12 years. In this time, we've served a highly diverse population, supporting families in our community in multiple languages. I also have participated in several HIPPY projects outside of my typical program duties. Examples of these are development of the HIPPY Bridge Program, as a pilot site for the home-based childcare provider program, and currently I am leading the HIPPY curriculum refresh project. Overall, my HIPPY experience has been a wonderful venture. I am hopeful I can share my ever growing knowledge with other programs while continuing to learn from them.

Name: Juanita Puga

HIPPY Site: North Range Behavioral Health Family Connects

Location: Weld County, CO

Years with HIPPY: 12.5



I began my journey as a HIPPY parent in 2003. I did not have HIPPY for my oldest child, and I knew I wanted something for my other children. HIPPY found me. As a parent, I learned the skills to be my child's first teacher. I learned how to speak up for my children when they entered school. When I was asked if I was interested in becoming a home visitor I felt shocked to be chosen and honored to be part of the HIPPY Program. Through my early experiences with HIPPY, I saw my children bloom as readers and learners, and I attribute that to their HIPPY experiences. For the next 10 years, I helped other parents learn those same skills. I returned to HIPPY in 2017 as the Program Coordinator. My return to HIPPY felt like returning home, and I am glad to be back.

Name: Diana Adams

HIPPY Site: Calvert County Public Schools

Location: Calvert County, MD

Years with HIPPY: 21

HIPPY Model Fidelity Specialist Role

The team of specialists provide virtual and onsite technical support to sites based on their unique needs and challenges. Site visits are conducted as part of the national accreditation system, using the MGRA to conduct observations and document reviews to assess quality of delivery and adherence to the HIPPY model.



I have been the proud coordinator of the Easterseals Rio Grande Valley site for the past 4 years. I completed one program year as a HIPPY home visitor in 2017 while I continued my education in human development and family studies. I was promoted to the Parents as Teachers program, but continued with HIPPY as a parent with my youngest child. In 2020, I returned to the HIPPY program as the coordinator. I led my team through the accreditation process and received our certificate of accreditation in 2024.

Name: Clarissa O'Brien

HIPPY Site: Easterseals Rio Grande Valley

Location: Rio Grande Valley, TX

Years with HIPPY: 7



I began my journey with HIPPY as a young professional wanting to make a difference in the lives of children. When I got to know the program, I fell in love with the parent component. I started to see how this program changed families' lives. My home visitors were involved and connected not only with their children but with COMMUNITY. We were under resourced and underfunded but had a team like no other. Through years of hard work and dedication we were able to advocate on state and local levels to get the funding our families, and our staff deserved. I am also a HIPPY mom of two beautiful children and saw firsthand how my children light up when mommy spent time with them learning. I am forever grateful for HIPPY in my family and as my career highlight.

Name: Rachele Ventrone

HIPPY Site: Bergen Family Center

Location: Englewood, New Jersey

Years with HIPPY: 18

Meet HIPPY US' New Data Specialist

Hello HIPPY Family!

Data is constantly evolving, and the demand for accurate and timely information remains a priority. At HIPPY US, we continue to update and improve our systems to meet these needs. Today, we have another important update to share.

As some of you know, David Tisdale is no longer serving as our Data Specialist. However, he remains a cherished member of the HIPPY family. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him continued success.

With that, we are thrilled to introduce Amber McEnturff as our new Data Specialist! Effective immediately, all data-related inquiries and information previously directed to David should now be sent to Amber at data@hippyus.org.

Please join us in giving Amber a warm welcome to her new role.

We are confident she will make a fantastic addition to our team. Thank you for your continued support as we grow and evolve.



HIPPY
UNITED STATES



Program Highlight: HIPPY in Hawaii

Aloha mai kakou!

This is HIPPY Hawai'i! Because of the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture, the focus on family values, and dual language integration; Keiki O Ka 'Āina (KOKA) modifies the HIPPY model so that families meet together in small groups, "talks story" and role plays together in both the English and Hawaiian language, and incorporates the Hawaiian culture into every HIPPY lesson! It is magical! KOKA trains Parent Educators to use the Hawaiian language in their lessons, as they feel comfortable. The use of outside spaces and activities are encouraged. The Hawaiian values are the foundation that guides behavior in every HIPPY class session. Families are encouraged to show and share ALOHA with one another- not to judge but get to know one another. They are not only encouraged to MĀLAMA or care for their keiki (children) but to also care for themselves. We emphasize self-care. Because they meet together in a group, they talk about LOKAHI or harmony. Creating space for each one to share their thoughts and feelings as well as role-play is important. Finally, we are always striving for PO'OKELA (excellence). Only in this way will our keiki strive for excellence! Holomua (move forward) HIPPY and Keiki O Ka 'Āina!

NASD-CORP Project

USF is actively working on updating the course based on the input and feedback of those who participated last year.

Revisions are expected to be finalized by the end of the year. As such we anticipate sharing with you, enrollment information in the new year. Stay tuned.

Coordinator Preservice

**January 20- 23, 2025,
Baltimore, Maryland**

If you need to complete the HIPPY US Coordinator Preservice training and would like to get it done soon [Register Now](#) or [Download the Flyer](#) for more information.

Registration closes on January 3, 2025. Space is limited to **25** attendees only. There are **only 8 slots left!**

The HIPPY Swag Store

It's time to update your HIPPY Swag!



Fulfill your HIPPY holiday wish list with a new collection! Check out our new designs and items in the [HIPPY Store](#) on our website. Order while supplies last!

orders are based on availability

Connecting



Hearts



Igniting



Minds



Bridge Curriculum

Plan Ahead for Summer Learning!

As you begin planning for summer programs, take advantage of our early-bird promotion! Purchasing the Bridge Curriculum now ensures your site secures this year's pricing, avoiding potential increases in spring and summer next year. In addition, don't forget to explore our library of recorded training sessions, designed to answer frequently asked questions and walk you through everything the new curriculum has to offer. This can be found in [the HIPPY library](#) on the curriculum page. Plus, don't miss our upcoming informational webinar on February 12 at 12 PM PST (1 PM MST, 2 PM CST, 3 PM EST). This is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Bridge curriculum. [Join us via Zoom](#), and submit questions in advance through our [request for support form](#).

You may be wondering about what the experience has been like for those who have already tried out the new Bridge Curriculum. We're thrilled to share the positive feedback from our recent parent and caregiver survey! 78% of respondents rated their satisfaction with the Bridge Curriculum highly, giving it a score of 4 on a 1-to-4 scale. 89% of the respondents indicated that the curriculum was easy to incorporate into their day-to-day activities with their children. In addition, one parent shared, "We loved learning about Australia and New Zealand, and the activities that involved building something were our favorite." Another parent highlighted the value of bilingual books, appreciating how they make the curriculum inclusive and accessible for diverse families. We're grateful for these insights and excited to continue enhancing the Bridge curriculum experience for all.

Excelling with MGRA: Overview of important changes

I'm not getting a site visit this year, do these changes apply to me? Yes! Regardless of whether your site is engaged in the endorsement process this year, it is vital that you understand and apply the updates to the MGRA. Here's a snapshot of some of the most important clarifications and changes:

1. The endorsement cycle has been lengthened from 3 to 5 years
2. The endorsement worksheet has been updated in both format and information collected, and an endorsement scoring rubric was added to provide examples and requirements for meeting and exceeding each HIPPY standard.
3. Model Fidelity Specialists roles and expected activities have been described.
4. Suggested Role Play Sequence - new information details the expectations of coordinators to prepare for and provide role play training to home visitors.
5. Keys to role play remain substantially the same, with the addition of some clarifying details.
6. 5 R's have been added to Home Visit standard 2: Rapport, Review, Role Play, Referrals, Reminders, found in Home Visit Standard 2.
7. New recommendations for making up missed curriculum work is detailed in Home Visit Standard 5.
8. Definitions have been added for Enrollment, Served, Completion and Retention, also in Home Visit Standard 5.
9. New best practice recommendations for English as a second language learners have been developed - found in Home Visit Standard 6.
10. Primarily social events must include an educational component to count as a group meeting, as detailed in Group Meeting Standard 1.
11. Sites with 3 or less coordinators are defined as Microsites and are detailed in the Coordinator section.
12. Coordinator education requirements have been adjusted. A bachelor's degree in ECE still required, with consideration (pre-approval required) of lived experience and training hours in ECE. Find more information in Coordinator Standard 1.
13. Observation of home visitors has been streamlined. Observe by Week 3 for new home visitors, and Week 5 for experienced home visitors, then by Week 15 and 25 for all home visitors. Look in Coordinator Standard 2 for more details.
14. Professional goals and development plans: You can still use your own forms, but templates provided cover all the bases! Review and ensure that what you're using incorporates all these elements. Check out Coordinator Standard 3 for more information.

Your HIPPY US and State Office team is here to help answer any questions you have. We are also collecting questions and concerns [via this form](#). Please reach out!



MGRA

**Model Guidance,
Requirements, and
Accreditation**

Home Visits

Role Play

Coordinator

Group Meetings

Home Visitors

Implementation

Model Fidelity

Program Quality

Support

**Your
ROADMAP
to Endorsement!**



S&S Worldwide Shipping: Fall 2024

Timeframe for HIPPY US Curriculum

If you are looking to order curriculum, please refer to the chart below for details on availability and shipping timeframes. We hope this information helps streamline your ordering process. Should you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to S&S at hippy@ssww.com.

Material	Timeframe
Packets 1-10 (LL, Yr.1, Yr. 2, Yr. 3)	Available to ship
Packets 11-15 (LL, Yr.1, Yr. 2, Yr. 3)	Available to ship
Packets 16+ (LL, Yr.1, Yr. 2, Yr. 3)	Shipping January 2025
Bridge Curriculum	Available to ship
HIPPY Shapes	Available to ship
HIPPY Blocks	Available to ship

*Some materials for later weeks may ship now based on limited availability. This may be sporadic and is not an indication that other items are missing. Please review the Packing List(s) and Delivery confirmations provided by S&S upon receipt which will clearly indicate which items are still on BO. If items indicate they were shipped and they are missing, please report this immediately upon receipt check-in.

*HIPPY Storybooks and Tradebooks for Weeks 1-15 are all in stock now and Weeks 16+ will be in January.

Webinars and Other Learning Opportunities

[Register](#) for the **Indie Connect Webinars**

Jan. 8

May 14

[Register](#) for the upcoming **HIPPY US Webinar**

Feb. 12

Mar. 19

MGRA [On-Demand Webinar](#)

Home Visitor Module [Registration](#)

Home Visitor Module [Informational](#)

DON'T FORGET!

- [Register for Conference](#) (The Avima Gala is now free)
- [Reserve your room\(s\)](#) for conference
- [Submit your nominations](#) for the Dr. Avima Lombard Award
- Invite businesses to [register](#) as a conference exhibitor ([Informational](#))
- [Watch this video](#) to learn more about Hill visits (password: =0%MF^*d)
- [Submit your vendor request](#)
- [Register for Coordinator Preservice](#) or [Download the flyer](#) for more information
- [Join the Bridge Curriculum Informational Webinar](#) on **February 12, 2025**
- [Learn more about MGRA Changes](#)
- [Download the On-Demand MGRA Webinar](#)
- [Visit the HIPPY Swag store](#) to order your new swag
- [View S&S shipping timeframe](#) and [contact S&S](#) for questions
- [Register for upcoming Indie Connect Webinars](#)
- [Register for upcoming HIPPY US Webinars](#)
- [Register for Home Visitor Modules](#) or [download the flyer](#) for more information
- **Visit the HIPPY US website to view**
 - U.S. News Article: [How Parents Can Help with Kindergarten Readiness](#)
 - Link to [HomVEE approves HIPPY US Bridge Curriculum](#)
 - Meet the new [Model Fidelity Specialists](#)
 - Program Highlight: [HIPPY in Hawaii](#)
 - [Visit the HIPPY Swag store](#) to order your new swag

Stay Connected

Library

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

Library Password:

Connecting

Request for Support

If you would like support, have feedback or want to ask a questions go [here](#) to connect with a HIPPY US team member today!

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.



HIPPY US National Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

Remember:

- View the HIPPY US Program Calendar for upcoming events
- If you require special accommodations based on your state or region, contact the [Conference Planning Committee](#) today

Be on the lookout for:

- The 2025 Conference Presenters
- Updates about NASD-CORP
- Conference Swag release date