

31 July 2025 | HIPPY US | [Request for Support](#)

Nikki's Corner

In these uncertain times, I've found myself revisiting the works of those who inspire me. One such influential figure is Alice Walker, who famously stated, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." In this moment of change, it's crucial to recognize that we witness power in action daily, and it's this very power that can sustain us through these challenges. With Ms. Walker's words in my consciousness, I've been examining my beliefs and values and when I encounter contrasting ideas, I engage in the tough work of reflection. Below are some initial thoughts on one such subject.

Rethinking the Narrative: Parents & Empowerment

In conversations about early learning, it's not uncommon to hear the phrase, "empowering parents to be their child's first teacher." Like many initiatives, this language is used to highlight the essential role of parents in their children's early learning journey. While the sentiment is admirable, the language deserves a closer look. The word "empower" is defined as **"to give (someone) the authority or power to do something" or "to make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights."** These definitions suggest that power is something bestowed—something a program or institution grants to someone who lacks it. But here lies the problem: parents already have power. They do not need anyone to give it to them and only they can say if they've been empowered.

What many parents—especially those from communities historically overlooked or underserved—need is not empowerment, but recognition, affirmation, and amplification of the knowledge, instincts, and strengths they already possess. Most parents—regardless of income, education, or background—start with a deep well of insight about their child. They are storytellers, caregivers, protectors, and teachers from the moment their child is born. What they often need is support that honors and builds upon what is already there—not messaging that suggests they are being transformed into something they weren't before. It doesn't mean that "empower" doesn't have a place in this work and if you want to explore this further, reach out [here](#) and I'll share the full article I'm working on, and we can co-create it together.

Until next time, continue to activate your own power,

Nikki Martin-Bynum, National Program Director



HIPPY at the Texas Rural Education Association

Adriana Treviño and Miriam Westheimer joined Andy Meredith from S&S Worldwide to present HIPPY at the Texas Rural Education Association. The purpose was to tell school superintendents about HIPPY and the expansion of MIECHV dollars focusing specifically on rural communities. Many expressed interest and Adriana will be following up with them.



You Should Know

Webinar Sneak Peak!

We are finalizing the lineup of webinars for FY 2025-2026 and will be diving into three key components of the HIPPY Model:

- Home Visitor Support
- Group Meetings
- Home Visits

These trending topics were identified by over 300 individuals who provided feedback on our 24-25 webinar evaluations. We will delve more deeply into a specific aspect of each of these themes, and will have time in each session to break out into groups to discuss and share best practices. Registration is not required, but it is highly recommended to ensure you receive the automated reminder and link just in time for each session. In the past, our focus has primarily been on Coordinators, but this year we're encouraging home visitors to attend too.

Don't miss out! Hold the dates of October 22, 2025, January 21, 2026, and March 18, 2026 (times are 12pm PT, 1pm MT, 2 pm CT, 3 pm ET). [Register now](#) for automated reminders through the year.

All webinars will continue to be posted in the library, and sites can access the recorded webinar, slides, and any handouts used. The **webinar archive** covers such topics as:

- Our Role in Child Abuse Prevention
- Am I Doing Role Play Right?
- Fidelity to the HIPPY Model

HIPPY Swag Store

Are you in search of swag for your fall home visitor training?

Head over to the [HIPPY Swag Store](#) and make your [purchase today!](#)



Congratulations to all the sites who went through our inaugural endorsement process in 2024-2025!

And, a big shoutout to our Model Fidelity Specialists who provided sites with support, strategies, insights and validation. Below are the sites who received endorsement visits, listed with their endorsement status:

- **Amarillo Coalition of Health Services, Amarillo TX**, Endorsed & Recognized
- **Dallas ISD**, Dallas TX, Endorsed & Stellar
- **Focus Points, Denver CO**, Endorsed & Recognized
- **JeffCo, Jefferson County CO**, Endorsed
- **Richardson ISD, Richardson TX**, Endorsed & Recognized

Endorsement is a rigorous process designed to ensure alignment with national quality standards. By achieving endorsement these teams have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and have met the national standards for quality (MGRA). We applaud their dedication to delivering high-quality services to children and families!

[↓ See below for the Press Release ↓](#)



Home-Visit Programs in Colorado and Texas Receive Top Honors from National Organization for Advancing Early Childhood Education

By supporting parents as a child's first teacher, innovative local programs boost early literacy and numeracy skills to prepare children for a successful start to school

United States, July 17, 2025 – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), the global organization that has pioneered evidence-based home-visiting for more than 50 years, today announced its 2025 Nationally Endorsed, Recognized, and Stellar U.S. Sites.

“These communities exemplify the transformative impact that home visiting can have when it comes to setting students up for success in elementary school and beyond,” said Benny Feifel, CEO at HIPPY International. “Of course, making good on the promise of home visiting isn’t always easy, but these sites are proving that the model can not only scale, but also adapt to the unique needs and dynamics of local communities.”

For more than fifty years, [research](#) has demonstrated that home-visiting programs have profound, lasting positive impacts on young children. Grounded in a belief that parents can be a child’s first and most influential teacher, home visiting is focused on fostering meaningful relationships within families to foster early childhood development and learning. Home visits provide parents with practical tools, coaching, and confidence in order to strengthen school readiness, reinforce positive parent-child interactions, and lay the groundwork for long-term educational success.

Stellar Site programs rank among the top 10% of HIPPY’s Nationally Endorsed network, setting the gold standard for school readiness and parent engagement nationwide. All nationally acknowledged sites are selected based on exceptional performance across all standards outlined by HIPPY’s Model Guidance, Requirements, and Accreditation (MGRA) Standards for Quality HIPPY Programs Manual. The MGRA and accompanying National Model Fidelity visit evaluate role play, home visits, coordinators, home visitors, and fidelity to the national standards. Designation levels and recognized sites include:

Nationally Endorsed – Meets all required standards for model fidelity

- Jefferson County Public Schools, Colorado

Nationally Recognized – Demonstrates impact that exceeds fidelity requirements

- [Amarillo Coalition of Health Services](#), Texas
- [Focus Points Family Resource Center](#), Colorado
- Richardson ISD, TX

National Stellar Site – Represents the top 10% of endorsed programs, delivering extraordinary quality, consistency, and results

- [Dallas ISD](#), Texas

HIPPY currently reaches more than 12,000 families in 20 states and the District of Columbia through a 30-week curriculum designed to support early learning at home. Trained peer home visitors – often former HIPPY parents – use role-play to model literacy, numeracy, and developmental activities that parents can implement with their children. Delivered in the family’s home language and tailored to each child’s developmental stage, the program has been shown to improve school readiness, strengthen early math skills, and increase on-time grade promotion. Parents who participate in the program have also reported feeling more confident, less stressed, and more engaged in their child’s education.

“Dallas HIPPY has always valued program fidelity and has consistently provided Dallas ISD families with quality home instruction,” said Yvette Gonzalez, Director of Dallas HIPPY and Community Engagement. “Earning the "Stellar" status and receiving this formal recognition is more than an achievement; it reflects the collective passion, preparation, and purposeful planning our team brings to every home visit, training, parent meeting, and event. When staff are deeply connected to the mission, the passion naturally transfers to families, providing parents with tools and support as their child's first and most important teacher.

For more information about HIPPY, please visit <https://www.hippyus.org/>

Special Announcements

“Encuentro” LATAM

We're ready to start off the new year with an **engaging networking opportunity** with our **“amig@s”** in **Argentina, Paraguay** and **Chile**. It will be held on Sep 10, 2025 at 9:30am PT, 10:30am MT, 11:30am CT, 12:30pm ET. Registration will be individual and **each person should log on independently** (by phone or computer). This will allow everyone to network better by being mixed into groups with other states and countries. Registered participants will receive the zoom link. Click here to register today! We'll be reaching out to state offices and Indie Sites for short videos to highlight our US Spanish speaking sites so stay tuned. Let us know if you'd like your site to be featured!



[↑ Click on image to enlarge ↑](#)

Home Visitors!

Get Ready for a Page Just for You!

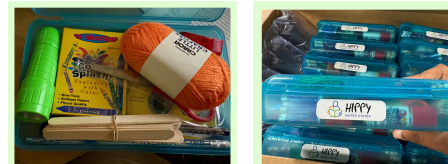
HIPPY US is proud to recognize the incredible work of Home Visitors with a brand-new section in our bi-monthly newsletter—designed just for you! Stay tuned for the **September 2025** edition of the HIPPY US Newsletter to see this exciting feature debut. We can't wait to celebrate your impact and dedication!

ESSENTIALS PENCIL BOX

(A message from S&SWW)

Hello, HIPPY friends!!! You saw it at the Conference in Baltimore and we are pleased to announce we are now in stock with the HIPPY **ESSENTIALS PENCIL BOX**. Click on the updated [order form](#) for details.

Click on images to enlarge ➡



2025 HIPPY US Kickoff

Kickoff 2025 is just around the corner!

[Register today!](#)

Our Annual Program Year Kickoff Webinar is on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025!** This virtual gathering is a chance for the HIPPY community to come together for a powerful hour of inspiration, program updates, and connection as we launch into another year of supporting families and igniting minds.

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025
- **Time:** 12 PM PT | 1 PM MT | 2 PM CT | 3 PM ET
- **Location:** Virtual – Zoom link will be sent to registered participants

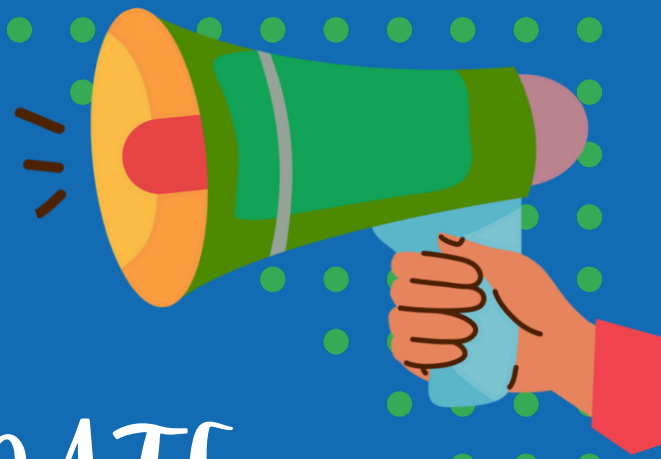
We'd love to feature your program—upload your favorite photos to be included in our slideshow by [uploading them to this link](#). All photos must be submitted by August 28 to be included in the slideshow.

🔗 Connect with us: [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [X/Twitter](#)

Let's make this year our best yet!



HIPPy
UNITED STATES



SAVE THE DATE


25-26 Annual Program Year Kickoff

CONNECTING HEARTS - IGNITING MINDS

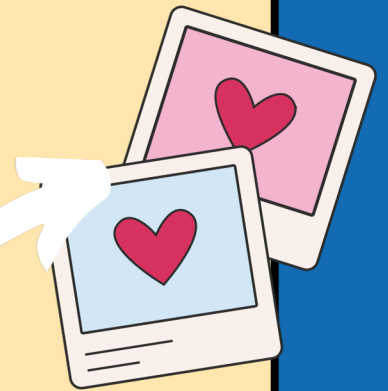
Join us as we kick off the 2025–2026 program year with updates, inspiration, and connection!

 **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

 **12PM PT / 1 PM MT / 2 PM CT / 3 PM ET**

 **Virtual** – Zoom link will be emailed to all registered participants a few days prior to the event.

Click here to upload your favorite photos by August 28th to be included in our Kickoff slideshow!



REGISTER HERE



Follow, Like, & Share!



Special Announcements

Welcome Back Indie Sites!

Eighteen sites across 14 states are our Independent, or “Indie” sites.

We offer support to our Indie sites through one on one consultations (schedule a convenient time with Carla or Terri) as well as Indie Connect webinars throughout the year. For this year’s Indie Connect webinars we plan to follow the themes identified for the national webinars: Home Visitor Support, Group Meetings, and Home Visits. We’ll be using a Community of Practice framework to activate your creativity and collective knowledge. **All Indie team members are encouraged to attend webinars:** coordinators, home visitors as well as program supervisors. We recommend Indie Sites attend both the national webinar as well as the Indie Connect webinar on the same topics. While they will each stand alone, attending both will deepen information, and provide mutual support and networking opportunities.

Don’t miss out on Indie Connect webinars! Hold the dates of

November 19, 2025, February 18, 2025, and April 15, 2025, at 12 PM PT, 1 pm MT, 2 pm CT, 3 pm ET. [Register now](#) for automated reminders.

NASD-CORP is Preparing to Launch!

Learn more about Autism and HIPPY when you attend the NASD-CORP, fall cohort, launching **September 8, 2025**. Reach out to your State Leader for more details.

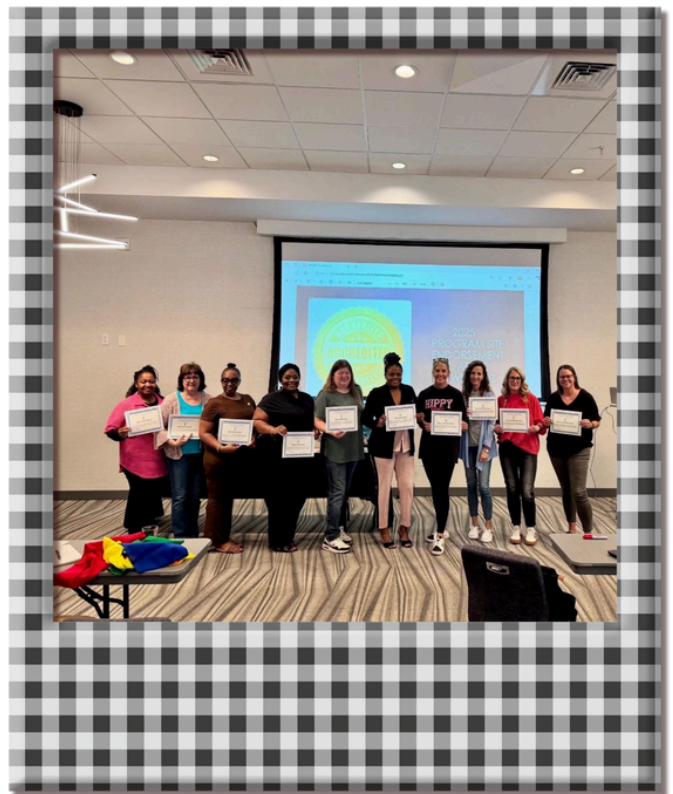
Program Highlight: Arkansas HIPPY

Arkansas HIPPY was one of two states that opted to undergo a state endorsement process.

Simone Diggins, **HIPPY Arkansas State Manager**, shared that HIPPY AR had 11 coordinators participate in and successfully complete their rigorous statewide endorsement process.

Congratulations to everyone in Arkansas for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence!

Fun Fact: Arkansas has the highest concentration of HIPPY programs in the US, and has some of the longest standing programs too!



[CHECK IT OUT](#)

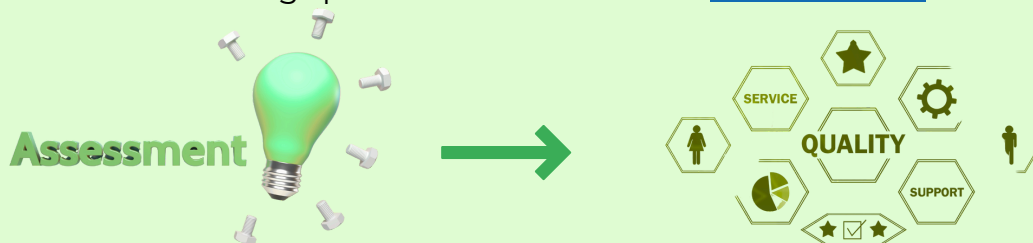
Self-Assessment as a quality improvement strategy

How can I make self-assessment worthwhile? Self-assessment invites program stakeholders (such as parents, program partners, staff, agency representatives, advisory board) to evaluate the program's systems, practices, and outcomes. Based on reflective practices, self-assessment fosters a sense of ownership, and promotes continuous professional growth. Throughout this process the team identifies strengths, pinpoints areas for improvement, and develops targeted action plans. Self assessment is required when engaged in the endorsement process, but it will only be worth it if it is accomplished in a meaningful way. Each program will need to identify ways to make this a meaningful and productive process that works beyond meeting the requirements of endorsement.

Reflective practices you could use in the self assessment process include:

1. **Asking stakeholders to observe program elements and provide feedback** using the same forms that the Specialists will use to validate your program.
2. **Engage various groups of stakeholders** (parents, program partners, staff) in discussions that identify program strengths and challenges.
3. **Survey stakeholders about their satisfaction with the program** and ask them to describe program strengths and challenges.
4. **Explore existing data and reports to identify areas for improvement.** Set goals for next year based on this year's data. You are already collecting the following data - use it!
 - a. Home visit observations
 - b. Parent group meeting evaluations
 - c. Home visit documentation completed by each home visitor
 - d. HIPPY 3.0 data
 - e. Rates such as caseload/slots filled, completion/retention, staff turnover, staff meeting attendance, parent meeting attendance
 - f. Any existing report on your data platform can help you identify areas for improvement

This is our final article on the updates to the MGRA this program year. We hope you have found them useful and are inspired to identify ways to continuously improve your program. Remember that 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!



Curriculum Updates

Bridge Curriculum

Summer is the perfect time to continue supporting families with engaging, educational activities using a more programmatically flexible curriculum. The Bridge Curriculum is also a great tool for preventing summer learning loss while keeping parents involved in their child's development. Sites that used it last year—especially across HIPPY Texas—reported that families loved the vibrant visuals, meaningful content, and bilingual resources. You can find recorded trainings, the new resource guide, and previous training session slides in the [HIPPY Library](#).

Haven't ordered your materials yet? There's still time! Take advantage of current pricing and get everything you need to make the most of the remaining summer weeks. [Download the order form here.](#)

Let's keep building connections, sparking curiosity, and making learning fun all summer long with the Bridge Curriculum!



Professional Development

HIPPY US Professional Development Opportunities

Overview:

HIPPY US provides a range of professional development options to support staff in all roles, including home visitors, coordinators, and supervisors. Designed with flexibility in mind, these offerings are available in both virtual and in-person formats to meet the diverse needs of programs.

Training opportunities include:

- **Preservice training for coordinators and assistant coordinators** delivered through a combination of online modules and in-person sessions as well as an **online-only option for supervisors** of coordinators.
- **Self-paced online modules for home visitors**, available individually or as a bundled set
- **Free webinars**, including HIPPY US webinars and Indie Connect webinars, which are specifically designed to support independent sites without a state office
- Access to the **HIPPY US Online Library**, featuring free professional development resources

[This handout](#) provides a clear summary of training types, costs, and how to access them. Program staff are encouraged to review these options to support continuous learning and development within their teams.

Reconciliation and PAYGO

As you likely know, on July 4th, President Trump signed his sweeping domestic policy reconciliation package, formally known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, into law. The final legislation includes multiple major changes--most notably, deep cuts to Medicaid and CHIP, as well as expanded SNAP work requirements that will block millions of Americans from accessing critical assistance.

Additionally, the bill contains several provisions that will substantially increase the federal deficit. As a result, it triggers automatic spending reductions under the PAYGO rule- an across-the-board cut that, if allowed to proceed, would lead to major reductions in Medicare and other mandatory programs.

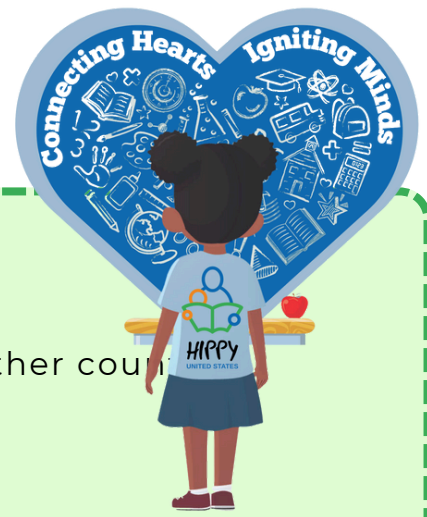
In recent years, PAYGO has become a routine part of the reconciliation process, regardless of which party controls Congress. Each time, lawmakers have restored funds and averted the PAYGO cuts. Congressional members and staff remain confident that this Congress will again take action to limit the PAYGO cuts, even though the amount of funding that needs to be restored this year is much higher than previous years and political sentiment on Capitol Hill for reduced spending is greater. We are closely following PAYGO and reconciliation conversations and will continue to share updates as the situation evolves.

Changes to Definition of "Public Benefits"

Earlier this month the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with many other Federal Departments, released a [press statement](#) and published a [Federal Register Notice](#) outlining its intent to newly classify a range of federal programs as "public benefits." This change would require applicants to verify their legal immigration status in order to access those services. At this time, MIECHV is not a part of this change, however other programs families in the HIPPY US community may rely on, such as Head Start and SNAP, are.

While the Federal Register Notice states that it is "necessary to apply this interpretation to HHS programs immediately", there has been no implementation guidance issued at this point which is causing confusion across states. There are also growing questions on the legality of this process and on July 21, attorney generals from 20 states joined together to file a lawsuit against the Trump Administration. This is an evolving situation and we will continue to monitor and provide updates as we are able. We also appreciate you reaching out to us at support@hippyus.org and letting us know if you hear about any guidance that may be issued by your states.

DON'T FORGET!



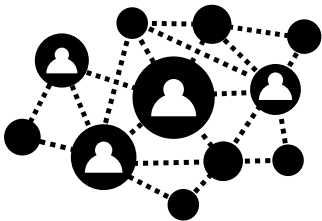
- Reach out if you would like to [connect with Nikki](#)
- [Register](#) for FY 2025 - 2026 Webinars
- See who's endorsed by viewing the [HIPPY US Press Release](#)
- Network with other Spanish speakers at HIPPY sites in other countries by joining the [LATAM](#) webinar
- Save the date and [register](#) for the 2025 HIPPY US Kickoff
- See what programs in [Arkansas](#) are doing
- Talk to your State Lead if you are interested in joining the NASD-CORP Fall cohort
- If you have questions and/or concerns about the updated MGRA, submit them [here](#)
- [Order](#) your Summer Bridge Curriculum
- [Learn more and register](#) for Coordinator or Supervisor Preservice
- [Visit the HIPPY Store](#) to order your HIPPY swag
- Reach out to [Suzi Plasencia](#) for advocacy questions
- [Visit the HIPPY Library](#) for additional resources
 - Reach out to your State Lead for the password
- [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#) to the Bi-monthly Newsletter
- [Submit your request for support](#) for one on one support from HIPPY US

Paying by Check

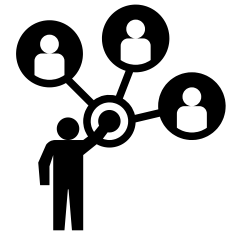
If you are paying for **HIPPY US related products and services** and would like to pay by check, **remit checks** to:

HIPPY US
2727 Palisade Ave, Suite 6J
Bronx, NY 10463

If you have any questions or run into issues, reach out to us through the [Request for Support](#) board for personalized assistance.



CONNECT



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.

Library

For additional resources, visit the [HIPPY library](#).
Speak with your State Leader for the library password

Request for Support

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