



HIPPY US JANUARY



CONNECTING HEARTS, IGNITING MINDS

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NIKKI'S CORNER

☀️ Welcoming the New Year with Growth, Hope, and Big Things Ahead at HIPPY! ☀️

As we begin a fresh year full of possibility and promise, HIPPY US is buzzing with excitement for what's ahead! At HIPPY, we know that learning truly begins at home, and this New Year offers us a wonderful chance to reflect on the meaningful progress families, home visitors, and partners made together in the past year—and to set our sights on even greater impact in 2026.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled about expanding the reach of our evidence-based model, strengthening support for home visitors, and continuing to enhance our curriculum resources for families nationwide. Together, we will keep connecting hearts and igniting minds as we nurture early learning and family engagement.

Here's to a bright New Year, full of growth, collaboration, and celebration. We're grateful for every family, staff member, and community partner on this journey—exciting things are happening at HIPPY, and we can't wait to share them with you! Please read all HIPPY US communications in detail, you don't want to miss a thing. In the interim, you can always reach out to me [here](#).

In Community,
Nikki Martin-Bynum, National Program Director



HIPPY International Directors Convene in Melbourne

Recently, HIPPY International directors gathered in Melbourne for a powerful and deeply meaningful convening, bringing together representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and Canada. The meeting created space not only for strategic collaboration, but for shared reflection on history, culture, and the future of HIPPY's work with Indigenous communities.

A central focus of the convening was the exchange of experiences supporting Indigenous families in each country. Directors discussed both the challenges and responsibilities of working within communities that have been shaped by histories of colonization, forced separation, and systemic oppression. In Australia, participants traveled together to visit Aboriginal communities and culturally significant sites, including places connected to earlier policies that forcibly separated Indigenous children from their families. These visits grounded the conversations in lived history and reinforced the importance of trust, healing, and accountability.

The group also met with Aboriginal home visitors—known in Australia as tutors—who shared their experiences delivering HIPPY in their own communities. Their leadership and insight highlighted the critical role of community-based staff and the importance of culturally rooted approaches to family engagement.

Directors learned more about Australia's ongoing efforts to shift governance and decision-making authority to Aboriginal organizations, reflecting a broader commitment to self-determination and local control. Participants were also struck by the fact that HIPPY in Australia is fully funded by government, underscoring the country's public commitment to early childhood and family support.

The Australia convening was both humbling and energizing. It reinforced the shared values that unite HIPPY programs across countries, while honoring the unique histories, cultures, and leadership of Indigenous communities. Directors returned home with renewed commitment to partnership, learning, and advancing equity in their work with families around the world.

S&S Backorders



S&S continues to work to provide high-quality service while carefully managing costs, and we are grateful to coordinators for their patience during this transition period. Some uneven inventory remains a factor, but this is expected to improve very soon. To strengthen communication and reduce uncertainty, all backorders are now followed up with direct outreach to programs, along with notification to HIPPY US. Recently, an issue arose with the Families / La Familia book when the publisher did not meet its production commitments. Thanks to the flexibility and professionalism of programs, the HIPPY team was able to quickly prepare an alternative set of photos and revised text so materials could be printed locally without disrupting services to families. Given ongoing challenges with this publisher, this title will likely transition to a HIPPY storybook in the near future to ensure consistent quality and reliability.



Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals Presents:

Celebrate the incredible work, dedication, impact, and excellence of home visitors nationwide during **National Home Visiting Week 2026 - April 20-24, 2026!** This will be a week filled with inspiration, learning, and recognition of the professionals who strengthen families every day. Mark your calendars and check out the **[toolkit](#)** to determine how your site will participate.

Nominations **closed on January 9th**, and we hope that you submitted a nomination. If you did submit a nominee, we are looking forward to celebrating all HIPPY nominees in the upcoming months.

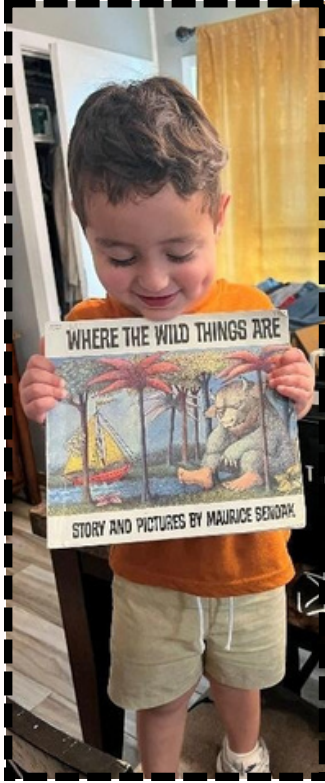
Let's get ready to celebrate!

Photo Requests: Share Your Special Moments!

We love seeing the energy and connections that make your programs shine! As we celebrate the start of a new year, we're collecting photos from holiday celebrations, group meetings, and community events to feature in next year's Kick-Off Slide Show and on HIPPY US social media. Share the laughter, learning, and togetherness that make your program so special!

Submitting your photos is quick and easy. **[Use this link to share your favorite moments.](#)**

Program Highlight: Easterseals Rio Grande Valley HIPPY



Easterseals Rio Grande Valley HIPPY has implemented the HIPPY Traveling Library, an initiative that has brought books directly into the homes of the families they serve. The Program Coordinator built the collection of children's books through generous donations and the purchase of pre-loved books from local libraries. As part of their weekly home visits, families check out books from the Traveling Library to enjoy at home. Each time a book is completed, families record it in a reading log, turning reading moments into celebrations that support early literacy and joyful shared learning. Together, these efforts have strengthened family engagement, encouraged consistent reading routines, and fostered a growing love of books.

If anyone would like to contribute to the HIPPY Traveling Library by donating books (new or pre-loved), you can contact the site coordinator Clarissa O'Brien by email at cobrien@easterseals-rgv.org

Sunrise Celebrates 30 Years with HIPPY Birthday Event

Sunrise Children's Foundation marked its 30th anniversary with a special HIPPY Birthday celebration focused on school readiness, hands-on learning, and family engagement. Families explored HIPPY activities aligned with the Nevada Pre-K Standards, enjoyed a photo booth, crown-making station, finger painting, playdough, and learned about the history of HIPPY through a slideshow and timeline.

Community resources were also available, including the Southern Nevada Housing Authority and the Clark County School District. We closed the celebration with cake, Panda Express, parent testimonies, and lots of joyful family moments.



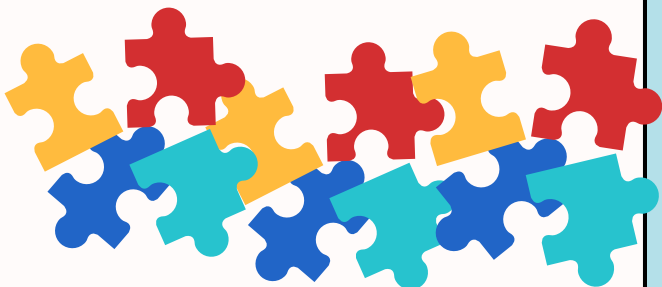
NASD-CORP Fall Cohort has Concluded!

Participation and engagement in the Fall Cohort were strong. All students received the recording of Live Session 3, and CORP sessions had consistent participation, with most participants actively engaged in discussions and activities. Participants demonstrated high-quality engagement by applying what they learned and openly sharing experiences, and many expressed interest in staying connected after the course.

Participants valued the practical knowledge and tools gained, noting they could immediately apply what they learned to their work and caseloads. A challenge identified was that some participants were unable to complete the CORP component due to personal circumstances; about 10 students did not continue past the initial stage.

Overall, the NASD-CORP achieved its intended goals. Most participants adapted well to the Canvas platform, remained motivated, and several exceeded expectations. Those who completed the program are expected to be strong leaders within HIPPY US in serving children with ASD.

If you are interested in participating in a future effort, please **reach out to your State Leader to be added to the waitlist.**



Bridge Curriculum

As some programs approach end-of-year spend-downs, now is a great time to consider ways to support families while making the most of available resources. The Bridge Curriculum is designed to help families stay engaged during transitions between curriculum age groups. Whether a child has completed one level and is waiting to begin the next, or a family joins the program before the new year starts, the Bridge Curriculum keeps learning active and meaningful. Programs may also consider offering additional visits over the summer as part of spend-down activities, helping families continue to grow and connect.

All lessons provide hands-on, engaging activities, and helpful materials, including the [Resource Guide](#), are available in the [HIPPY Library](#). To place an order, [download the order form here.](#)

HIPPY 3.0

HIPPY 3.0 was designed to enhance the way programs access, manage, and deliver the curriculum to families. Available in English and Spanish for Little Learners, Year 1, and Year 2, HIPPY 3.0 gives families digital access to engaging activities, songs, and resources while simplifying logistics for sites. Families can easily log in from a phone or other device, and programs benefit from built-in reporting tools and multilingual features.

To get started, programs can [email an order form](#) to Hippy@ssww.com. Training videos for coordinators, home visitors, and families are available in [the HIPPY Library](#) under the Curriculum page. For questions or to request more information, please complete our [Request for Support and Feedback form](#).

If you're looking to increase your skills and knowledge, professional development opportunities are a great way to grow and stay current in your field.



Coordinator Preservice

We are excited to share that we are in the process of transferring our Coordinator Preservice to a new learning management system (LMS) while also reimagining the preservice experience to better support our coordinators. We anticipate completing the initial phase of this project, the LMS transfer, by the end of March. In the meantime, we are still accepting interest in Coordinator Preservice [registration](#) and encourage anyone who needs to sign up to do so.



Supervisor Preservice

Supervisor Preservice is offered year-round as a fully online, self-paced training designed specifically for supervisors of coordinators. This program equips supervisors with strategies and guidance to effectively support coordinators in their roles. Participants can [view a course overview with this link](#). The fee is \$275 per participant, and [registration](#) is open at any time.

25-26 HUS Webinars

HIPPY US is hosting free webinars in the 2025-26 program year for all staff, focusing on practical support and shared learning. Upcoming sessions include:

- **March 18, 2026:** Home Visits.

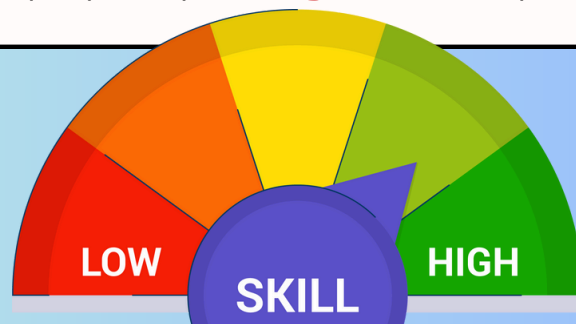
All webinars will take place at Noon PT | 1 PM MT | 2 PM CT | 3 PM ET.

Previous webinar resources, including the recording and the post-webinar resource guides, can be found in [the HIPPY library](#) on the professional development and webinar archive page

[Register here for automated webinar reminders](#) of future webinars.

HIPPY Specific Home Visitor Self-Paced Learning

Home Visitor Modules are available online year-round and can be completed at your own pace. These courses cover key topics, including the HIPPY model, curriculum, recruiting, and group meetings, and are designed to fit the schedules of busy home visitors. Modules are available individually for \$35 each or as a bundle of four for \$120 per participant. [Registration](#) is open at any time.



Partial Government Shutdown Growing Increasingly Likely

This time last week, folks in Washington were cautiously optimistic that Congress would pass the remaining FY2026 appropriation bills in time for the January 30th deadline established in the Continuing Resolution (CR) that ended the shutdown earlier this fall; this includes funding for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

However, recent events in Minnesota have significantly altered dynamics on Capitol Hill, and there remains much uncertainty on how things will progress for FY2026.

At the end of last week, the House was able to pass a four-bill minibus before heading home ahead of the winter storm impacting much of the country. The Senate was scheduled to return this week and take up the package; however, a growing number of Senate Democrats have now stated their opposition to the portion of the package that provides funding for the Department of Homeland Security until significant policy changes are made to immigration enforcement provisions.

It's becoming increasingly unlikely that the Senate can pass the House-version of the package without substantial amendments—meaning, the Senate will likely need to send an amended package back to the House for another vote. Throw in the winter weather that still has Washington snowed-in, and it is looking like we could face a partial government shutdown starting at midnight on Friday.

If a shutdown occurs, it is expected to be brief. It would affect only the federal departments, agencies and programs whose funding bills have not yet been approved by both chambers of Congress and signed into law by the President. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide updates as we have them.



Learning How to Advocate for HIPPY

If you're interested in advocating for your community, city, or state, be sure to explore the [HIPPY US Advocacy Toolkit](#) for additional insights and information.



STRENGTHENING PARENT CONFIDENCE

Helping home visitors intentionally build up each parent's confidence — especially in communities that have been historically marginalized — empowers the entire family and fosters long-term success beyond the program. When families integrate education into their daily lives it helps both parents' and their children's confidence grow. Example: **research shows** that parent-child book reading predicts children's later success. Daily book reading is built into HIPPY and it's worth pointing out to home visitors and parents the value it brings to their child's development and the parent-child relationship.

Give each home visitor a copy of **One Visit at a Time** (digital or hard copy). Depending on how much time you have for this topic you can keep it as simple as giving them the insert to read and asking one of the **REFLECTION** questions. If you have a little more time, you can use one or two of the **LET'S TALK** discussion questions, which would add 10-15 minutes of connecting time to your meeting. Or you can open with a question, add one or two of the **THREE MORE IDEAS** and the **TRY THIS** activity for a 30-45 minute training on the topic. Any materials needed for the TRY THIS activity are underlined.

TRY THIS: Good Job HIPPY Fam!

(Write a thank you note for each home visitor and hand them out. **This website** has some ideas). Today you are going to write encouraging notes to a few of your parents on these thank you cards. Pick a parent you'd like to encourage and recognize for their hard work. Maybe one who had a rough start, who faces additional challenges, or who needs someone to notice their efforts. First let's brainstorm (on chart paper or digital projection of a document). How did it feel when you read the note from me? How do you want parents to feel about the note you write? What would we want to include in an encouraging note? - 5 mins. Now write encouraging notes to take to home visits this week - 5 mins. Would anyone like to share their note? - 5 mins. Next week we'll check back and talk about how it went when you delivered your notes to parents.

LET'S TALK:

- What life experiences and strengths do you bring to parenting?
- Describe a time you handled a challenge better than you expected?
- What's one small change you have made that had a big positive impact?

THREE MORE IDEAS of how to use today's insert with your team:

- **Video** - What resonated with you from this **video**? How do these ideas apply to us as adults?
- **Applied Tips** - Read through the tips, highlight a tip that you have had success with. Circle a new one you'd like to try.
- **Wow Wall** - Put up a poster board or chart paper on the wall and add post its with compliments and notes of appreciation for individual members of your team. Ask everyone to add their own post it notes, then review them together and celebrate your wows.



Don't Forget

RESOURCES AND MORE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

- **Connect** with Nikki, if you'd like to connect
- Check out the 2026 National Home Visitor of the Year **toolkit**
- **Share** your favorite moments
- **Tell us your thoughts**, ask questions, request support, or tell us Why do you HIPPY?!
- Reach out to **Clarissa O'Brien** if you're interested in donating books to Texas HIPPY's traveling library
- Reach out to your State Lead to be added to the NASD-CORP waitlist.
- **Order** the Bridge Curriculum to help support families during curriculum age group gaps.

- **Order HIPPY 3.0** and make curriculum more accessible, manageable, and family friendly.
- **Learn more** about how to participate in HIPPY's **Professional Development** courses.
- **Connect** with Suzi for advocacy information.
- **Review** the Advocacy Toolkit
- **Download** the "One Visit at a Time" insert and share it with Home Visitors.
- **Watch** the Licensure Fee Distribution presentation: Understand your fees.
- Learn more about **Endorsement Recognition**
- **Reach out** to S&S to be apart of your event

Let's continue to
Connect and **Ignite**
the **Hearts** and **Minds**
of the families we
serve!

Paying by Check

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

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



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**. Reach out to your **State Leader** for the password

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!