



Newsletter

HIPPY US SEPTEMBER



NAVIGATING THE PATH TO SCHOOL AND BEYOND

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NIKKI'S CORNER

HAPPY HIPPY NEW YEAR! 🎉

What an incredible turnout! Over 350 members of the HIPPY Network joined us for our Annual Kick-Off to preview all the exciting things lined up for the 2026–27 program year.

Huge thanks to our featured speaker, [Joy Winchester](#), for inspiring us and sharing her incredible expertise. We also owe a massive thank you to—Adriana Trevino, Janie Rojas, Clarissa O'Brien (TX), Simone Diggins (AR), Jani Johnson (AL), and Sindy Pelayo (CO)—and our amazing behind-the-scenes HIPPY US team: Carla Mowell, Shaqula Parks, and Terri Meehan. It was a resounding success!!!

Couldn't make it or want a recap? Visit the [HIPPY US Library](#) to watch the recording, view the 25–26 End-of-Year Slideshow, grab the event handouts, and find out how to earn your certificate of completion via the Spot Check.

As always, my calendar is [open](#)—please feel free to reach out anytime!

Nikki Martin-Bynum
National Program Director

S&S WORLDWIDE

HIPPY Online Ordering Is Here!

HIPPY's new online ordering website through S&S Worldwide is now available, making it easier and more convenient for programs to order HIPPY materials.

Several training sessions have already been offered, with additional training opportunities planned to help programs get comfortable using the new system. When you're ready to order, visit www.ssw.com and be sure to sign in to your S&S account—HIPPY products will only appear after you are logged in. Questions or assistance can be directed to HIPPY@SSWW.COM.

For more information, review the [S&S Information Page](#)!

CORDUROY'S CROSS COUNTRY ADVENTURE

Corduroy's Cross Country Adventure A HIPPY Family Literacy Project



Join HIPPY's nationwide literacy adventure inspired by Corduroy by Don Freeman! Families at your site will read the book, create their own traveling paper Corduroy, and exchange him with another HIPPY site. As Corduroy travels, he'll collect stories, photos, and a travel journal to share when he returns. [Sign up with this link to participate](#) and connect your families with others across the country! Please complete only one sign-up per site.

What to Expect

- You will be paired with another HIPPY site if one is available.
- Each site is responsible for its own participation, including:
- Costs for supplies, postage, and return shipping
- Translation of the project materials for families, if needed
- The documents below outline the full process, including how to create your Corduroy, host one from another site, and exchange journals.

Project Resources

1. [Corduroy's Cross-Country Adventure Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
2. [Overview & Family Letter \(DOCX\)](#)

Please review these materials carefully to determine if your site should take part in this activity.



HIPPY LIBRARY

We have a few important updates to the **HIPPY US Library** for the new program year!

The HIPPY US Library password has also changed for the new program year. Please check with your **state lead** for the current password before accessing the Library.

Not sure where to find what you need? Check out the [How to Use the HIPPY US Library](#) guide for help navigating the Library and accessing available resources.

New this year: Earn certificates from webinar recordings! Beginning with the September 2, 2026 HIPPY US Kick-Off, participants who are unable to attend the full live webinar can earn a certificate of completion by watching the webinar recording and successfully completing the accompanying learning check/quiz. Recordings and learning checks will be available through the HIPPY US Library.

ONE VISIT AT A TIME

New! One Visit at a Time Resource Archive Coming Soon!

One Visit at a Time is back this year! Each newsletter issue will continue to feature a new One Visit at a Time insert for HIPPY home visitors, offering inspiration, reflection, and practical strategies to support their work with families. Coordinators will also receive a companion training guide with discussion questions, activities, and ideas for using the topic for professional development with their team.

New this year, you'll also be able to find all One Visit at a Time resources in one place. A new One Visit at a Time page under Professional Development in the HIPPY US Library will serve as an archive of the resources shared throughout the year, along with topics from last year.

Each topic will include two one-page resources: a **Home Visitor Handout** that can be printed or shared digitally and a **Coordinator Training Guide** with flexible ideas for discussion, reflection, and skill-building.

Watch for a new One Visit at a Time in the newsletter, then visit the **One Visit at a Time archive** anytime you want to revisit a topic or find a resource for your next team meeting.



HIPPY MODEL ONBOARDING: COORDINATOR'S EDITION

Just in case you missed it!

HIPPY Model Onboarding: Coordinator Edition (formerly called preservice) is **now available!**

This training equips new HIPPY coordinators and assistant coordinators with the tools they need to successfully implement the HIPPY model and support home visitors. You can [learn more](#) here.

The Supervisor and Home Visitor Editions are still in development, with an expected release later this fall. We'll share an update as soon as they're ready.

Thank you for your patience as we work to deliver a high-quality onboarding experience for all HIPPY roles.

HIPPY AND ADVOCACY

Are you thinking about meeting with your congressional leader this fall?

The [Congressional Meeting Toolkit](#) provides helpful guidance, talking points, and resources to help you share the impact of HIPPY, highlight the work happening in your community, and advocate for the families you serve, all while helping you prepare, plan, and feel confident when meeting with your elected officials.

[Connect with Suzi](#) for additional information or guidance.

NATIONAL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER COMMUNITY OF RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (NASD-CORP)

NASD-CORP: Two Cohorts, One Program Year!

Missed the fall NASD-CORP cohort? No worries! HIPPY US will be offering two NASD-CORP cohorts during the 2026–2027 program year, giving you another opportunity to participate.

Review the [NASD-CORP flyer](#) for more information!

HIPPY US IS JOINING THE PAT CONFERENCE

We're headed to Portland, Oregon for the 2026 PAT Conference in collaboration with HIPPY US, October 5–8, 2026!

Check out the flyer below for the latest details. and the [FAQ](#) for questions.



HIPPY US

FAQ'S

Portland, Oregon

October 5-8, 2026



For our
HIPPY family

4 Sessions

Check the PAT app for room numbers

1. HIPPY US Home Visitor Rally: Down the Path Together - 10/6/26
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM PT
2. SUPER-vision for HIPPY Coordinators - 10/6/26
10:20 AM - 11:20 AM PT
3. What's New? HIPPY Innovation - 10/6/26
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PT
4. What Gets Watered Grows: Leadership Lessons from the Garden
10/7/26 - 2:50 PM - 3:50 PM PT



Dr. Avima D. Lombard Awards Luncheon

Date & Time: October 7, 2026, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PT

Location: Convention Center, Room #D149-152



Onsite support for HIPPY attendees

HUS Team Members will be available for onsite support. If you require assistance, reach out to us here: <https://wkt.ms/4f1ADqnp2> or call 305.834.2227 to be connected



Get to know your vendor better

S&S will be at the conference. Be sure to stop by and see Audrey.

We can't wait to
connect, learn, and grow together!

See you in Portland!



HIPPY COLORADO: A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH POSSIBILITY AND JOY

There is something special about the beginning of a new HIPPY program year, the excitement of welcoming families, the joy of opening a new book together, and the promise of new connections and possibilities.

Across Colorado, HIPPY programs are beginning the year with renewed energy and a shared commitment to helping families and communities thrive. The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) has awarded Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding to all HIPPY sites across the state, including support to launch a **new HIPPY program serving a new Colorado county.**

For Colorado HIPPY, this investment represents more than growth. It creates opportunities to reach more families, strengthen relationships, and bring joyful learning experiences into more homes and communities.

From reading together and discovering new ideas to celebrating children's accomplishments and parents' strengths, HIPPY creates everyday moments that can have a lasting impact. Our home visitors and programs are excited to begin another year alongside families, learning together, celebrating together, and building on the strengths already present in each community.

As we welcome a new program year, Colorado HIPPY is growing with purpose, connecting with joy, and creating more opportunities for families to thrive. one home, one relationship, and one joyful learning moment at a time.

Jackie Cordova, Director of Statewide PAT & HIPPY Implementation

HIPPY US ASKED ABOUT YOUR PROUDEST MOMENTS AND YOU RESPONDED

Many of you spoke about the joy of watching children learn, grow, and gain confidence. You also shared the pride of seeing families develop routines, start daily reading, and overcome challenges like anxiety, depression, or language barriers. One Alabama home visitor described her accomplishment as “getting a mom with anxiety to stay in the program. It was hard for her; she is struggling with so many issues but said I convinced her she could do it.” These successes remind us how powerful consistent visits and encouraging words can be, especially during hard times.

Another source of pride was the strength of your teams. Some celebrated reaching full staffing after long shortages, while others highlighted the success of new home visitors or recognition for experienced ones. Staff completed training, earned degrees, and took on new roles with confidence. A Florida home visitor shared her pride in “watching the program staff in Florida be recognized for their hard work.” A Colorado respondent added her joy in “having one of my home visitors selected for an award.” Thank you to all who submitted Avima award nominations—celebrating both big and small accomplishments helps strengthen our commitment to this work.

You also recognized your own growth—whether completing a first solo home visit, speaking in public, or presenting at a conference. These milestones reflect the courage and dedication that move our mission forward. Despite challenges, your pride in this work continues to drive us all. Every home visitor, every family, and every partnership is part of our shared mission: helping children enter school ready to succeed. On behalf of HIPPY US, we are so proud to be working alongside each and every one of you.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT PINELLAS HIPPY

WHY DO YOU HIPPY?

I HIPPY because
its a great
opportunity to
educate parents
and students

-Lela G Harris



Meet **Yasha Yisreal**, a **proud mother of six** and an **incredible HIPPY parent**! Yasha began her HIPPY journey around 2014, and over the years, she has experienced firsthand the impact HIPPY can have on both children and families.

Yasha has already celebrated the graduation of one of her children from HIPPY, and this year, she is proudly celebrating five of her six children completing the program! Her daughter, Shalah, has had the wonderful opportunity to complete four years of HIPPY alongside her mom.

On July 31, Yasha and Shalah joined fellow HIPPY families at ZooTampa to celebrate their amazing accomplishments and recognize families who completed three and four years of the HIPPY program. It was a special opportunity to celebrate the **dedication, commitment, and growth of our HIPPY families**.

We are incredibly proud of Yasha and all that she has accomplished throughout her HIPPY journey. We are also excited to watch her complete this journey with her youngest child over the next year! Yasha is truly a testament to dedication, commitment, and the impact of HIPPY. Her story is a wonderful reminder that when parents are empowered as their children's first teachers, amazing things can happen! 💙📚☀️

Congratulations, Yasha, and thank you for allowing HIPPY to be part of your family's journey! 🎓❤️

BRIDGE CURRICULUM

The Bridge Curriculum is a flexible resource designed to support families whenever there is a gap for a child between curriculum age groups. It can be used after a child completes one age group of the curriculum and before beginning the next, or as a way to keep families engaged if they are recruited before the program year begins. The lessons help maintain momentum, offering parents meaningful activities that keep children learning and connected. You can find helpful resources including the [resource guide](#) in [the HIPPY Library](#). To order, [download the order form here](#).

PHOTO SUBMISSION REQUEST

Share Your Beginning of the Year Moments!

It's never too early to start capturing those special moments! We're looking for photos from the start of the year, especially of families and children working on packets 1 through 10, parent orientation events, and recruiting activities, to feature in next year's Kick-Off Slide Show. Share the energy, excitement, and connections that make your program shine! Photos can be [submitted easily using this link](#).

VENDOR SETUP REQUEST

HIPPY US Vendor Setup Information

Organizations requesting to establish HIPPY US (HUS) as a vendor can now access our [HIPPY US Vendor Information document](#) for guidance on the vendor setup process, applicable purchases, and required documentation.

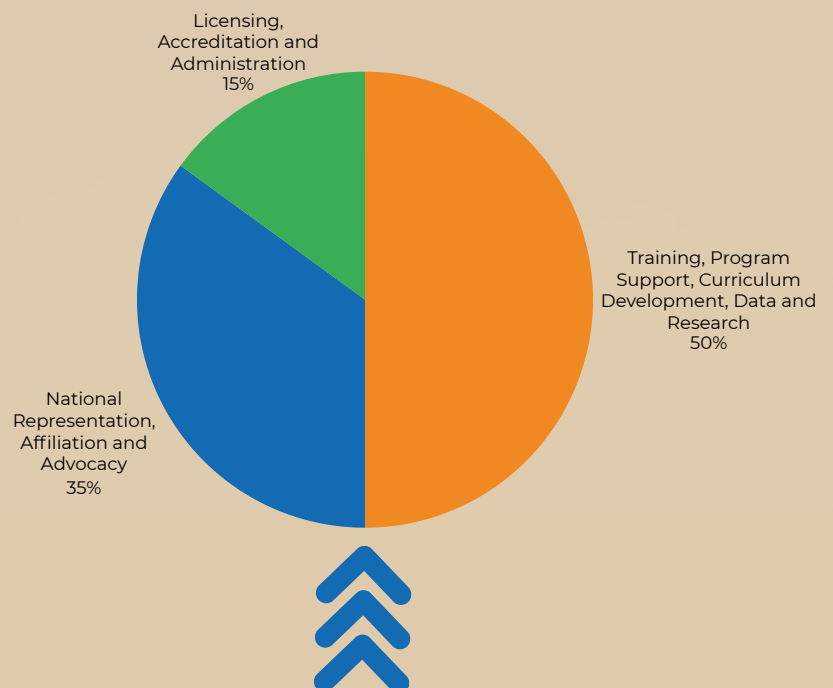
Please review the document before submitting a vendor setup request to ensure you are following the appropriate process.

HIPPY 3.0

HIPPY 3.0 is entering its sixth year and continues to make the curriculum easier to access, manage, and use with families. Available in English and Spanish for Little Learners, Year 1, and Year 2, HIPPY 3.0 provides families with digital access to activities, songs, and resources while reducing logistics for programs. Families can log in on a phone or other device, and coordinators benefit from built-in reports and multi-language options. To get started, programs can submit an order form through email to Hippy@ssww.com using [this ordering form](#). Training videos for coordinators, home visitors, and families are available in the [HIPPY library](#) on the curriculum page. For additional questions or to request more information, place a request through our [request for support and feedback form](#).

LICENSURE FEE DISTRIBUTION

Following an examination of the 23-24 End of Year Survey, HIPPY International highlighted the role of license fees in supporting HIPPY US operations.



Click on the image above to view the PowerPoint presentation



HIPPY US WEBINAR SCHEDULE

This year's HIPPY US Webinar Series focuses on three topics identified through our annual survey and feedback from last year's webinars: **Trauma-Informed Practice** in November, **Strengthening Resource and Referral Practices** in February, and **Parent and Child Assessments During Home Visits** in April.

Each webinar will introduce the topic and share practical information and strategies you can bring back to your work. We've also paired each webinar with an **Indie Connect**, giving Independent Sites an opportunity to explore HIPPY-specific situations, share experiences, and learn from one another. Indie Connect recordings will be added to the **HIPPY US Library** so all programs can benefit from the discussion.

Don't miss an opportunity to join us! [Sign up for automated reminders for HIPPY US professional development opportunities](#) throughout the year. You can also view the HIPPY US Webinar Schedule and other professional development opportunities on [our public Google Calendar](#). Add the calendar to your own Google Calendar to keep upcoming HIPPY US learning opportunities easy to find throughout the year.

ROLE PLAY EXPERIENCE

Congratulations to our HIPPY coordinators and supervisors who completed the first **In-person Role play Experience for HIPPY Model Onboarding: Coordinator Edition** in South Carolina on August 25 and 26!

Participants came together to connect, learn, and practice the core elements of the HIPPY model, with a focus on role play and building the skills coordinators need to support home visitors and maintain model fidelity.

A special thank you to **South Carolina First Steps** for hosting this milestone event and welcoming our participants!

Congratulations to everyone who completed the experience. We look forward to seeing all that you accomplish as you support home visitors, strengthen HIPPY programs, and help parents prepare their children for success in school and beyond.



RAPPORT - STARTING STRONG

Rapport is more than being friendly or making small talk, and isn't simply something that happens at the beginning of the visit. It is the relationship foundation that makes Review, Role Play, Referrals, and Reminders effective. It is the intentional process of creating a relationship in which parents feel respected, valued, and comfortable participating. **Research on home visiting** consistently identifies the quality of the relationship between the home visitor and parent as an important factor in parent engagement. This means parents are more likely to participate, practice, share concerns, and try new strategies when they feel safe said respected. **As coordinators, we have a unique opportunity to model these behaviors with our home visitors.** Listening before solving, recognizing strengths, creating psychological safety, and approaching challenges with curiosity rather, **their interest should show** us what rapport looks like in practice.

Give each home visitor a copy of **One Visit at a Time** (digital or hard copy). Depending on how much time you want to spend on this topic you can keep it as simple as giving them the insert to read and asking them how they would like to apply the Reflection Questions (on the highdown) this week. If you have 10-15 minutes you can use one or two of the questions on the right, which would give your team an opportunity to connect. For a deeper dive into the topic, open with a question, add one or two of the **THREE MORE IDEAS**, and the **TRY THIS** activity below. Any materials needed for the TRY THIS activity are underlined.

TRY THIS: Rapport Detective

Listen to this short home-visit scenario containing several rapport-building and rapport-damaging behaviors. "A home visitor arrives just on time and immediately begins unpacking materials. She asks how the parent's week went while laying out her props. When the parent describes a challenge with her child, the home visitor shares a strategy she could try. Later, she remembers something the parent mentioned during the previous visit and asks about it."

In pairs discuss: What built rapport? What could be changed?"

LET'S TALK:

Discussion questions:

- How do you let a parent know you genuinely care about them and their child?
- What gets in the way of building rapport with families, and what could help us overcome that?

Three more ideas of how to use today's insert with your team:

What's it look like? – Working in pairs, draw a picture of what rapport looks like in a home visit. What would we see or hear that tells us rapport is being built?

Builds or Breaks? – Home visits consist of the Entrance, Education (Role Play), and Exit. Share an example of how we build or break rapport in each part of a home visit.

RAPPORT RECIPE – Give each person/pair a blank card. Your task is to create a recipe for strong rapport. What ingredients does rapport include? Write your recipe for rapport on your card. Afterwards discuss: Which ingredient makes the biggest difference in your home visits? Which one is hardest to access on a challenging day?

Don't Forget

RESOURCES AND MORE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

- [Connect](#) with Nikki, if you'd like to chat
- [Review](#) S&S' information page and order online today at HIPPY@SSWW.COM
- Review the [How to Use the HIPPY US Library](#) guide.
- [Sign up](#) to participate in Corduroy's Cross Country Adventure
- [Learn more](#) and register for the **HIPPY Model Onboarding: Coordinator's Edition**
- [Review](#) 2026 HUS/PAT Conference FAQs
- [Tell us](#), "Why Do You HIPPY?"
- [Order](#) the **Bridge Curriculum** to help support families.
- [Order](#) **HIPPY 3.0** and make curriculum more accessible, manageable, and family friendly.

- [Review](#) the **Vendor Setup Request Info**.
- [Review](#) the **Licensure Fee Video**
- [Sign up](#) for automated reminders for HIPPY US professional development opportunities
- [Connect](#) with Suzi for advocacy information.
- Review new [Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- [Download](#) the "Coordinator Guide" insert and share it with Home Visitors.
- [Learn more](#) about how to participate in HIPPY's **Professional Development** courses.
- [Register](#) for the **National Autism Spectrum Disorder Community of Research and Practice** (NASD-CORP) spring cohort
- Reach out to your **State Leader** about the **25 - 26 Annual Site Survey**

[Share](#) photos and videos of how you
"Navigate the Path to School and Beyond"

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!