



2026-2027 Program Year Indie Updates

Navigating the Path to School and Beyond



Links to the Library, Support Form, and Indie Connect HUB Below:

**HIPPY
Library**

Support Form

Indie Connect HUB

September 16, 2026

STRENGTHENING PARENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

Every home visit is an opportunity for a home visitor to strengthen their relationship with families. Even experienced home visitors have moments when a visit doesn't go as planned, but those moments can become opportunities to build greater trust and connection.

The article [How to Turn Mistakes During a Home Visit into Opportunities for Deeper Relationships](#) from Start Early reminds us that relationships are strengthened through honesty, respect, and a willingness to repair when needed. Rather than striving for perfect visits, focus on listening, responding with empathy, and working in partnership with families. Those small moments of connection help build the trust that keeps families engaged throughout the year.

Q: What if a family misses the first few home visits?

A: Start with curiosity, not assumptions. Reach out to the family to learn what barriers they may be experiencing and work together to find solutions. A caring phone call, a flexible schedule, or simply letting a family know they were missed can reinforce that they are a valued part of the program. Strong relationships are one of the best ways to encourage ongoing participation.

REMINDER: END OF YEAR REPORT DUE SEPTEMBER 30

End-of-Year Reports are due today, September 30. If you haven't already, be sure to submit your report and contact Amber McEnturff at data@hippyus.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY: RECOGNIZING SMALL WINS

During busy weeks, it's easy to focus on what's still left to do. This week, take a few minutes to recognize one success, whether it's a meaningful conversation with a family, a successful home visit, or a moment when someone on your team grew in confidence. At the end of the week, write down one positive moment from your work and share it with your team. Celebrating small wins helps build resilience and reminds us of the difference we're making every day.

25-26 Indie Updates Draft Document (Internal Copy)

September 9, 2026

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING CONVERSATION STARTERS

The first few home visits are about more than introducing the HIPPY curriculum; they're about building trust. Simple, open-ended questions can help families share their experiences and begin building a strong partnership. A few examples are:

- What would you like me to know about your child?
- What does your child enjoy?
- What are you looking forward to with HIPPY?

Find more strategies in [Lessons on Engagement in a Healthy Families Program](#) from Children's Trust Massachusetts.

Q: How do we build trust with families who seem hesitant?

A: Trust grows through consistency, respect, and listening. Be dependable, follow through on commitments, and recognize each family's strengths and experiences.

HIPPY FOR CHILDCARE CURRICULUM

HIPPY US continues to pilot the **HIPPY for Childcare Curriculum**, a 43-week adaptation for family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) and home-based childcare providers serving children ages 2–5. Following pilots in Colorado and Texas, a second Colorado pilot is preparing to launch in English and Spanish. **Interested in future pilot opportunities or learning more? Reach out to Juanita Puga, ecconcepts23@gmail.com.**

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY: CHECKING IN WITH YOURSELF

During a busy start to the program year, take a moment to check in with yourself. Ask: *How am I feeling? What is giving me energy? What do I need this week to feel my best?* Explore more reflection questions in [Check In With Yourself: 20 Questions for Emotional Wellness](#) from NAWBO.

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September 2, 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HIPPY US 25-26 Program Year Kick-Off

Join us today as we kick off a new HIPPY year and begin navigating the journey ahead together. You can [join with this Zoom link](#) starting at 3 PM ET. We look forward to seeing you there!

FIRST HOME VISIT SUCCESS TIPS – THE HIPPY 5 R's OF A HOME VISIT

The first home visit sets the tone for the entire HIPPY year. While every family is unique, following the **HIPPY 5 R's of a Home Visit** helps create a consistent experience that builds trust, supports learning, and prepares families for success. As your team prepares for their first visits, encourage them to remember the 5 R's:

- **Rapport** – Begin by connecting with the family and creating a welcoming, positive environment.
- **Review & Report** – Check in about the previous week, celebrate successes, and address any questions or concerns.
- **Role Play** – Model the activity, take turns practicing together, and check for understanding so parents feel confident leading the lesson with their child.
- **Referrals** – When appropriate, connect families with resources that can help meet their needs.
- **Reminders** – Before leaving, confirm the next visit, review any important information, and thank the family for their time and participation.

Q: How do we help parents feel comfortable with role play during the first role play visit?

A: The first role play can feel uncomfortable for both the home visitor and the parent. Start by explaining that role play is a chance to practice the activity together before the parent does it with their child. Keep the tone relaxed, encourage questions, and remind parents that learning something new takes practice. Then just jump in with both feet and **keep it fun!**

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY: CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS

Starting something new brings both excitement and uncertainty. Take a moment to reflect on the opportunities this new program year brings by reflecting on this question: What are you most looking forward to as you begin another HIPPY year?