

Partner agencies announced for 2011 sites

On 4 November the Minister for Employment Participation and Child Care, Kate Ellis, and the Member for Wakefield, Nick Champion, visited Novita Children's Services in South Australia to announce the successful applicants from the recent HIPPY expression of interest process.

Twelve partner agencies successfully applied to establish HIPPY in 15 communities (listed below). These communities are the final 15 to be announced by the Australia Government; the Government committed to fund implementation of HIPPY in 50 communities nationally.

HIPPY Australia would like to congratulate the successful partner agencies. With 50 federally-funded sites in operation, 2011 is going to be a massive year for HIPPY. We look forward to working with our new partner agencies to deliver HIPPY to more families over the coming years.

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Picture: Minister for Employment Participation and Child Care, Kate Ellis, with children attending the announcement.

State	Locations	New Partner Organisation And/Or Provider Of The Program
NSW	Ashmont	Anglicare
NSW	Fairfield (catchment extending to East Fairfield and Villawood)	Uniting Care Burnside
NSW	Nowra	Nowra Family Support Services
NSW	Riverwood	Learning Links
NSW	West Tamworth	Tamworth Family Support Services
VIC	Broadmeadows/Dallas	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Dandenong	South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
VIC	Frankston North	Brotherhood of St Laurence
VIC	Robinvale	Robinvale District Health Service
QLD	Caboolture	Australian Red Cross Society
QLD	Manoora	Playgroup QLD
QLD	West Ipswich (catchment includes Leichhardt and One Mile)	Australian Red Cross Society
SA	Davoren Park	Novita Children's Services
SA	Salisbury North	Novita Children's Services
WA	East Geraldton (catchment includes Rangeway, Karloo and Utakarra)	Child Australia



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia. The Brotherhood is dedicated to an early years strategy that encourages, supports and acknowledges the importance of positive parent-child interaction in enhancing children's learning.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Australia hosts the HIPPY international conference



Pictured: HIPPY International Director, Miriam Westheimer

On 19–22 October the Brotherhood of St Laurence hosted the HIPPY international conference at the Rydges Hotel in Melbourne.

On the first day of the conference, an open session was held titled 'HIPPY: International perspectives' and was introduced by Sarina Greco, the Brotherhood's Community Services General Manager and Tony Nicholson, the Brotherhood's Executive Director (pictured below).



A range of early childhood colleagues, long established affiliates of HIPPY Australia, HIPPY coordinators from Australia, and representatives from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations were invited to attend to listen to an overview of HIPPY in its international context.

Each of the international guests gave a small presentation on their country's program.

Our international guests included:

- Miriam Westheimer, HIPPY International, Director
- Pamela Lubell, HIPPY International, International Program Developer
- Ayala Berkovitch, Assistant Director, NCJW Research Institute for Innovations in Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Khadija Richards, HIPPY South Africa, Director
- Jane Hall, HIPPY New Zealand, National Director
- Dame Lesley Max, Great Potentials, CEO, New Zealand
- Lia Lent, HIPPY USA, Interim Executive Director
- Debbie Bell, HIPPY Canada, Executive Director
- Malka Melamed, HIPPY Israel, National Director
- Barbara Ametsbichler, HIPPY Germany, Chairwoman of the Board

Welcome to country was provided by local Wurundjeri Council Elder, Winifred Bridges.



Pictured: HIPPY Israel National Director, Malka Melamed

These presentations provided an invaluable insight into the way HIPPY is delivered internationally.

The presentation by Khadija Richards (pictured below) brought to our attention the hurdles being encountered in South Africa. Khadija discussed the many challenges faced by AIDS-affected and parentless children in South Africa. She discussed the adaptations to HIPPY South Africa that have been necessary to manage these complex issues.





Pictured: HIPPY Germany, Chairwoman of the Board, Barbara Ametsbichler

Hearing about each country in detail uncovered the unique and shared challenges and benefits that HIPPY programs experience across the globe.

In addition to our international guests, other speakers shared information on HIPPY in Australia.

Ngaire Hosking, Group Manager, Indigenous Pathways and Early Childhood Development from the Office of Early Childhood Education

and Child Care at DEEWR – the department responsible the HIPPY roll out – received much admiration for her presentation on where HIPPY fits into the Australian Government’s early years plan.



Tony Barnett (pictured above), from the Brotherhood–Monash evaluation team, presented the interim findings from the current evaluation and discussed the outcomes that are evident in HIPPY programs across Australia.

Tony also looked at the evaluation plan for the remainder of federally-funded period.

The rest of the week involved a workshop-style conference for the international representatives. The group discussed the ways the HIPPY model had been adapted throughout the world and how to adjust HIPPY to the particular needs of each country while adhering to the integrity of the model.



The final day was held at the Melbourne Zoo. In the morning Debbie Bell (pictured above) discussed the ‘First Nations’ program in Canada, which was developed with Indigenous Canadians to ensure the HIPPY program was appropriate for Indigenous communities. Debbie also discussed ‘Practising Citizenship’, a program developed for newly-arrived people in Canada.

In the afternoon, some Victorian HIPPY families joined the international guests for lunch and talked about HIPPY, before heading to the zoo.

Many thanks to all our guests who attended the conference. It was an absolute pleasure to host you.



Pictured: HIPPY International Director, Miriam Westheimer, with the coordinator and a family from HIPPY Long Gully / California Gully, near Bendigo in Victoria

HIPPY families visit the Melbourne Zoo

Our very big day out

It was a very big deal going to the zoo from the country. The train trip down itself was exciting! Thank you HIPPY Australia for letting us travel with strength in numbers (tutor, three of her parents and offspring) because otherwise we might never have found our way!

Parent and tutor, Sharon's little boy said, 'I loved the train and the penguins.'

And a playful parent said, 'I loved meeting HIPPY people from overseas and the fennel in the salad!'

It was great to have the opportunity to share such a special occasion together.

** HIPPY Long Gully / California Gully*

Moonee Valley parents didn't have to travel far – the zoo is right around the corner! A parent from HIPPY Moonee Valley said, 'It was nice. It was an opportunity to explore wildlife with my children and meet other parents.'

**HIPPY Moonee Valley*



Pictured: Families from our Glastonbury sites in Victoria arrive at the zoo



Pictured: Looking for animals on the zoo



Pictured: Baby Ongard was a main attraction

News from HIPPY Cabramatta



This term we have had some exciting parent groups. We had a psychologist from Learning Links talk to the parents about self-care, while beauticians gave the parents hand massages. Parents gained so much out of this session they have asked that we have the speaker back again. Parents had fun with the first aid talk from another psychologist, as they practised DRABC and bandaging each other. There was a lot of discussion and questions.

Recruitment for next year is well under way with 30 enrolments so far and two tutor applications received. Tutors have been taking out the year 5 materials to show parents and tell

them about what to expect next year and the parents have liked the books.

We have had some very positive feedback from schools. The HIPPY children are well prepared for school and parents have praised the program. At one school, the two mothers who got up to talk at the orientation were both HIPPY parents. One mother has gained so much confidence that she is now doing activities with the children at her son's childcare centre, using knowledge she has learnt through HIPPY.

The advisory committee is looking at ways the community can all work together to provide basic English

classes for our Khmer families.

The local librarian has asked for information on educational computer programs and children's books that would further support HIPPY.



Pictured: Jirat and Lan from HIPPY Cabramatta



Making the transition to 'big' school easier



Pictured: Families meet at HIPPY North Dubbo

Starting school can be a shock for our littlies but HIPPY in North Dubbo, operated by Centacare Wilcannia Forbes, is helping to alleviate the stress.

'When parents and their children share and play, the kids will learn without even realising it', HIPPY coordinator Fran Carter said. 'It's a pre-literacy, pre-numeracy program so they prepare for school.'

Families are involved in the program for a two-year period so children are supported from before kinder to the end of their first year at school. HIPPY also offers employment opportunities for families who have been part of the program. Parents can be employed as home tutors and are trained to go out

and visit other families in the program and support them and help them implement the skills taught at HIPPY.

In addition to the visits from home tutors, the four-year-olds and their parents come to HIPPY groups once a fortnight and do art and craft, or play fun games that they can also play at home. 'The children learn about the routine of going to school but also the parents get involved', Ms Carter said. 'They learn about what their child is good at, what they need.'

Valerie Wright is a home tutor who has benefited from HIPPY and wants to help others achieve the same. 'My son had a speech impediment which improved after coming to these days', Ms Wright said. As she explained, her son was already having classes with a speech therapist but the activities and the time he spent talking through HIPPY helped him to correct his speech.

'My family has got so much out of it and I wanted to show other parents the benefits and show them how spending time with their kids can be so fun and good for them', Ms Wright said.

The program in North Dubbo hosts TAFE students who are studying their Diploma of Children's Services. The Children's Services teacher from TAFE, Michelle Haywood, said her students got a lot out of attending the HIPPY days.

'They help facilitate the play sessions during the week with the one age group in fairly real conditions like in daycare', Ms Haywood said. 'They also get to build a rapport with the kids' parents which you can't learn in other situations besides the real thing.'

**This story was adapted from an article printed in the Daily Liberal newspaper on 11 November 2010.*

HIPPY Braybrook promotes road safety



HIPPY Braybrook recently held an information session for parents of four-year-old children. The session focused on the topic of road safety. This session, attended by ten parents and four children, began by watching a DVD produced by the local council on the dangers of double parking. Each parent was given a number of brochures produced by Vic Roads and TAC highlighting the level of supervision required for children crossing the road.

Our guest speaker, Anthony Bartl, gave a very moving talk on the need for vigilance when children are

crossing the road. Anthony was hit by a car at the age of six when crossing the road on the way home from school. As a result of that accident he has lived with C1 quadriplegia for the last 24 years – Anthony is not able to move anything below his neck; he can't move his legs or arms and cannot breathe on his own (he breathes via a machine).

Everyone at the group was moved by his presentation. The issue of road safety for these parents, with young children about to commence school next year, was highlighted in a very meaningful way.

* Linda Baker,
HIPPY Braybrook Coordinator



Pictured: Anthony Bartl at HIPPY Braybrook

Reports from the state network meetings

Western Australia — rhyme time

By Nicola Mackenzie

At the network meeting in WA 12 of us attended.

Coordinators, tutor teams and service assistants gathered.

Manager Megan with facilitators steered this HIPPY group.

A jetlagged consultant took up the rear and presented the national scoop.

We came together at Willow Pond; we shared, we learned, we debated.

The day promised much and delivered more we left so motivated.

The focus was to take some time to reflect and then look forward.

To see the strengths we bring to HIPPY and the goals we aim toward.

The HIPPY team thought long and hard, the depth of planning was evident.

We talked and wrote and laughed and ate. We were inspired, never complacent.

The evaluation of the day had many smiley faces.

The comments recorded showed all agreed the meeting was highly rated.

HIPPY families living in Perth are fortunate indeed.

They have the support of a fantastic crew who are determined to succeed.



Pictured: Western Australian participants

South Australia — friendliness, fervor and fruchocs

By Naomi Crew

It was a sunny November day in Adelaide as the South Australian sites gathered in the Novita Children's Services offices in Regency Park for their network meeting. Vanessa Wardle, HIPPY Mansfield Park Coordinator, facilitated the day with much enthusiasm.



Pictured: South Australia participants

The topics we discussed included the challenges and highlights of the program, home tutor experiences, home visiting issues and ideas, obstacles that arise in running parent groups, parent-tutor relationship building, advisory group roles and the journey of the parents and children. It was an effective and rewarding avenue for sharing best practice and problem-solving skills across sites. While many challenges were identified, one message was clear throughout: HIPPY is impacting positively on the lives of all involved.

Both coordinators and tutors left me in awe of the teams they have built at their sites. The HIPPY tutors were so confident in discussing the program and their enthusiasm for the tutor

role, dedication to the families they work with and the wisdom they displayed when discussing the challenges and highlights of the program left me feeling so proud to be a part of this wonderful program.

At the insistence of *all* the South Australians I met, I sit here writing while nibbling on some of the famous Fruchocs I heard so much about! Thanks for the advice ladies, yum!

A big thank you and job well done to Novita and Vanessa Wardle for hosting this event.

New South Wales and the ACT — Ba'thirst' for knowledge!

By Christine Wakefield

The NSW/ACT state network meeting was held at Bathurst on 14–15 October. People came from near and far. Charnwood, ACT, Warrawong, Windale, Bowenfels, Bidwell, North Dubbo, Cabramatta, Campbelltown, Claymore and La Perouse managers, coordinators and tutors came together to meet, re-connect, eat, talk, listen, laugh, cry and share highs and lows, ideas and strategies, plans and dreams.



Pictured: New South Wales participants

An excellent range of speakers informed, inspired and challenged us. Thank you to Terri Mayfield, Centacare, Bathurst and Julie, Tammie, Sarah and Cindy, of HIPPY

Bowenfels for organising and running this great event.

Queensland and the Northern Territory — sharing challenges

By Sherri Longbottom

It was with great pleasure that I attended the Qld/NT state network meeting as the HIPPY Australia representative on 25–26 October. I must congratulate Bev Seaman, the HIPPY Riverview Coordinator, on a job well done organising this meeting.

In attendance there were tutors and coordinators and from Inala, Mount Morgan, Pioneer, Logan Central, Riverview, Alice Springs and Katherine, as well as Alison Zanetti from DEEWR.

On the first day we had a range of presentations. Professor Donna Berthelsen discussed young children's development; Evelyn Saragossi gave a presentation on self-care (especially for tutors); and the highlight of the day was 'Making music time a success' — this was presented by Lisa Freeman (Sing and Grow). This was a great way to finish the afternoon, I really enjoyed it as it was all about making music fun with children and adults. I now sing to my new grandson all the

time (even though I can't sing), making up silly songs and he loves it.

On Tuesday we started off with everyone together. We talked about recruitment and retention and each site seemed to have similar issues, so we were able to thrash out ideas with each other. After morning tea, home tutors and coordinators separated. Home tutors stayed with facilitator, Kym Vellacott. They talked about child development, parent groups, role play and other issues they face in their role as home tutors. Coordinators spoke about advisory groups and how they run and discussed other issues they have in their role, with a focus on retention and recruitment.

It was a great meeting that gave everybody a chance to meet and talk with people from other sites. Coordinators and home tutors found it valuable to meet each other and discover they had similar issues and challenges.

Tasmania — Hobart happenings

By Lou Gilfillan

On 26–27 October, HIPPY home tutors and coordinators from the six Tasmanian HIPPY sites met in Hobart

for their state network meeting. We all imagine Tassie as a small state that is easy to get around, but you may be interested to know that for the team from HIPPY Smithton, the journey from the north-west corner of Tasmania to Hobart in the south-east took six hours! We were also very happy to see the HIPPY West Coast team arrive as they have been snowed in at times.

HIPPY Clarendon Vale and their partner agency, Colony 47, hosted the meeting, providing a relaxed atmosphere with plenty of talking and laughter.

Over the two days coordinators and home tutors shared information about their program, including some of the resources and tools they use, and discussed the challenges of delivering the program in their communities. The wonderful thing about having everyone together was that, using our collective wisdom, we came up with some great practical strategies to deal with challenges, and everyone learnt something new to try. Guest speakers covered topics including father-focused services and programs, referral and support services for families, and parent-child attachment. A particular area of interest for everyone was on how to engage dads in HIPPY. We were very lucky to have a number of programs that have dads either participating in the program as home tutors or doing the activities with their children.

The network meeting finished with a commitment from coordinators and home tutors to stay connected and to share resources and support.



Pictured: Queensland and Northern Territory participants



Spark-a-lark-a-ly diamond at HIPPY Burnie



We all know the treasures we find in HIPPY. The benefits to parents and children are well researched and documented. But, sometimes our enthusiasm wanes due to cancelled appointments and drop outs. Sometimes families take one step forward and two steps back. Tutors can find it demoralising when they work so hard and the value of their work isn't clear. So tutors are taught to have their antenna poised, ever looking out for those little gems, those glimpses of light at the end of the tunnel.

When the evidence of the value of their work is clear, it is so very, brilliantly bright. We've found a huge spark-a-lark-a-ly diamond in Burnie!

Let me share. We met Kellie through one of our recruitment street stalls at the beginning of the year. Kellie said she wanted to enrol her son Mitch – even though he was turning five this year – because he had developmental delays in many areas. Kellie had taken Mitch to specialists but had no diagnosis – Kellie was desperate for help. Mitch had been going to the early intervention service for some time, but had not improved.

I told her we couldn't promise miracles, but should she do the program, Kellie and Mitch would have some really lovely one-on-one time together – at the very least. We talked at length about specific or minimal praise and simply acknowledging children's work, using the three Cs and not saying 'no'.

Kellie took on all we said and is a model 'role play' parent. She even practised the three Cs and not saying 'no' on her other children (with immediate positive results). She was a HIPPY convert.

Mitch had an aid at kinder and Kellie believed he would not be able to start Prep next year. Now, after 20 weeks of HIPPY, Mitch no longer needs his aid and *will* be starting Prep next year. His improvement has been dramatic. I believe doing HIPPY consolidated all the work, but Kellie attributes his change entirely to HIPPY.

What a clever mum is our Kellie and what a supportive home tutor is Nicole!

Like mother, like daughter – Billie the kid from Burnie



Pictured: Billie's mum, and HIPPY tutor, Tash reads to children —Billie, age four, is in purple

Billie's first exposure to HIPPY was accompanying her mother, Tash, and sister to our groups while her sister did age 4 in 2007.

During 2008 her mother was a tutor (while her sister did age 5), so she saw her mum working at our groups.



Pictured: Billie, age five, reads to some of the other children at a HIPPY Burnie group

In 2009 Billie was enrolled in age 4 and then went on to age 5 in 2010 while her mother continued as a tutor. That's four years of HIPPY!

Billie has barely missed a group in those four years and I don't know how we'll cope next year without her



Pictured: Billie shows the pictures in her book to the other children

boisterous singing, chatter and laughter in our office before and after groups – not to mention her antics during the groups. **WE WILL MISS HER (and her mum)!**

*Laura Burnie,
HIPPY Burnie
Coordinator



Windale puts HIPPY activities into action

Windale tutors have been having a great time mixing some of the age 5 activities with their own ideas.



Pictured: HIPPY Windale families make their writing placemats at the HIPPY social day

In age 5 (pack 7) the idea of a writing corner is discussed. HIPPY tutors Melinda, Julie and Donna decided that a writing placemat would be a great idea for all our HIPPY children. The mat allows the child to take it anywhere to do their writing and creating. The placemat has the child's name written in NSW foundation style writing, is decorated by the children with stickers, glitter and pictures and then laminated so that the child can practise writing their name over and over (wiping it off after each time). Decorating the placemats took

place at our HIPPY social day in the July school holidays and was a huge success for the HIPPY child, their siblings and their parents.



Pictured: A HIPPY Windale parent helps her daughter decorate her writing placemat

One of our age 5 HIPPY children (pictured to the right) thinks HIPPY is so much fun. He really enjoyed making his plan for a pretend house and then designing it by gluing coloured icy-pole sticks onto cardboard. He found that he had to



change a few things from his original design plan and was very proud of the finished product.

*Marlene Tremain,
HIPPY Windale Coordinator

News from HIPPY Warrawong



At our last parent group, HIPPY Warrawong had a visit from the dental health team from Port Kembla Hospital.

Brenda and Jen joined us for the morning and talked about how important it is to look after our teeth.



While Brenda talked to the parents about dental health and its importance to children's overall health, growth and development, Jen spent time with the children.

Jen read a great rhyming story about brushing teeth, then some volunteers had the chance to dress up like dentists. The children played a game sorting food into 'everyday food' and 'sometimes food' then finished by learning a tooth brushing song. After all the fun it was time to have our teeth checked

and all the children received their own special surprise to help them look after their teeth: a special water bottle,



toothbrush and toothpaste! Many thanks to Brenda and Jen from all of us at HIPPY Warrawong.

*Jackie Brizga,
HIPPY Warrawong Coordinator



Jo McKean reflects on the ECA national conference

Living on the west coast of Tasmania you need to be prepared for changing weather conditions so you can make snap decisions about travel arrangements. Sitting in my office listening to the hail on the roof and watching the snow clouds gather I decided to go home and finish my last-minute packing, so that I would not miss my flight to attend the ECA national conference.

Soon I was listening to the local radio station detailing the roads that were about to be closed. Driving in a snow storm was a new experience for me but the beauty of the landscape kept me enthralled and eager to enjoy the experience.

The three Rural Health Tasmania Inc. HIPPY coordinators were privileged to attend this inspiring conference

and we all returned home revitalised and eager to share some of the knowledge we gained with our tutors and families.

I would like to share some inspiring quotes from the conference that have stayed with me.

Wendy Lee, a progressive researcher from New Zealand, spoke about:

'Finding magic – in every human being.'

'Nurture your child's passions. Put your heart and soul into everything you do. You are the educators of your children. Be brave, passionate and strong.'

And from Janet Robertson of the Mia Mia Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University:

'Merriment, magic, morality – in playgrounds.'

'Rain play not water play.'

Today sitting at my desk watching the snow clouds gather I am thinking about the beautiful warm, sunny city of Adelaide and dream a little.



Pictured: A snowy Tasmanian road

* Jo McKean, HIPPY West Coast Coordinator

'A caring world shares' – children's week in Colac



It was a glorious day on 27 October when over 240 children, their families, teachers and carers attended the annual Children's Week event in Colac. Our past and present HIPPY families were invited to come along to the free event celebrating the wonderful children of Colac and surrounding districts.

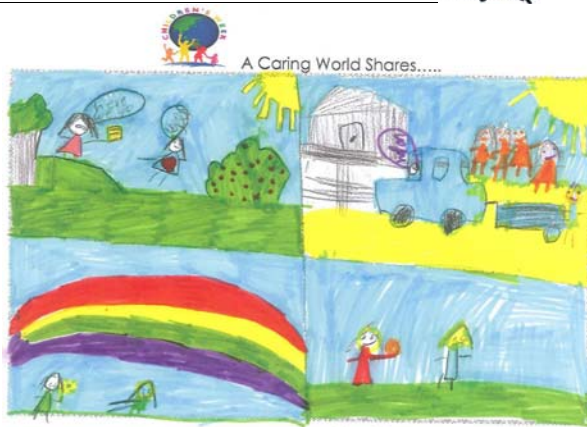
The children had great fun on the jumping castle, they ate fresh fruit and yummy dips, had their faces painted, patted guinea pigs and other animals, and joined in other exciting and creative activities. By all

accounts they had a ball; smiles were seen for miles!

Many children entered their pictures into the 'A caring world shares' drawing competition with some children

receiving wonderful prizes for capturing the absolute meaning of sharing (as displayed in the pictures here). Well done to the tutors for such a top effort on the day, it was a great success.

*Kim Coulter and Kay Widdicombe, Winchelsea and Colac Coordinators



Lily Grade 2

HIPPY North Dubbo and the blood bank challenge



'Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily' – Sally Koch

The HIPPY North Dubbo team has developed a partnership with the local Dubbo Australian Red Cross blood bank to raise community awareness of the importance of blood donation.

The HIPPY North Dubbo team is participating in a blood bank challenge that is being held during November. A big thank you to the team members who have already made this important donation.

Why don't you and your family and friends take part too and donate a little of your time and blood to your local Red Cross blood bank?

Here are some Interesting facts ...

Did you know that:

- the Dubbo Blood Donor Centre needs about 180 donors every week
- one in three people will need blood; while only one in thirty give blood.
- plasma donations can be made into 17 different products
- 34% of donated blood goes towards helping cancer patients.

Most people are able to give blood if they:

- are fit, healthy and not suffering from a cold, flu or other illness at the time of donation
- are 16–70 years old (in Qld and WA 16–17 year olds require parental consent)
- weigh more than 45kg (16–17 year

olds need to weigh more than 50kg).

On the day of donation:

- drink at least four glasses of water
- eat a good size meal
- bring photo ID.

I hope you can join us in donating!

*Fran Carter,
HIPPY North Dubbo Coordinator



A HIPPY activity in action!

Age 4, week 26 — social and emotional development

Things to think about and do

- Sit in front of a mirror with your child. Take turns pulling faces. Ask your child to guess what emotion you are trying to show. This is a great pretend play activity.
- Talk about your own feelings with your child. Ask your child how she or he is feeling.
- Use other words for feelings, for example:
 - 'mad' as well as 'angry'
 - 'frightened' as well as 'scared'
 - 'unhappy' as well as 'sad'
 - 'excited' as well as 'happy'.

Illustrated by the lovely Bryanna from HIPPY Burnie in Tasmania.



HAPPY



SAD



ANGRY



SCARED



Choosing to teach and learn at HIPPY Launceston

Parents who have chosen to participate in HIPPY in Launceston this year have praised it as a special way to connect with their children.

At a group meeting of parents, Josephine Koroma said her choice to join HIPPY had been hugely beneficial for her son Emmanuel. 'Doing the activities with him brings us closer together', she said. 'It is a very friendly time and he remember the things we have done. It is very educative and will help him greatly with school.'

Aparna Banerjee said her child, Adi, had also benefited. 'I was a kindergarten teacher back in India, so I know the value of this type of learning', she said. 'Adi enjoys drawing and marking the answers. I have seen him grow in confidence and I know that



Pictured: Families taking part in HIPPY activities



Pictured: Coordinator Ann trains a tutor

when he goes to school he will enjoy it more.'

Home tutors, Nicole Dean and Lisa Glashower, said HIPPY gave parents confidence in their own ability as their child's first teacher. 'Parents generally don't get a lot of praise – but HIPPY provides this ... and it is a lot of fun too', said Nicole.

'The change in people – children and parents – as they become more confident is just amazing', Lisa said.

Jane Achiro Osario, originally from Sudan, is a home tutor for African families. 'Many refugees are learning how to speak English and this gives them the opportunity to learn and practise by doing daily educational activities with their child. It is good for the children and also for the parents.'

Jane, who is fluent in Acholi, Swahili,

Arabic and English, said HIPPY helped migrant parents to overcome their fears. 'People worry that English is a difficult language to learn and that people will laugh at them', she explained. 'I tell others that if you really want to do something, you can do it. You don't need to feel frightened.'

Jane said that when she first arrived in Tasmania in 2005, her English was limited. 'It is important to decide – I am going to learn – and have a positive attitude', she says. Jane has since gone on to study for her Diploma of Children's Services. 'I want to build up that spirit of learning in others', she said. 'I tell the parents, we just need to take the next steps and encourage each other. We can succeed.'

** This is an article from the 2010 Anglicare Annual Report, pp. 14–15*



Pictured: Parent and tutor during role-play

HIPPY consultants on the road – but never out of fuel!

HIPPY consultants have had a very busy time since the last newsletter! With appointments across Australia for initial site visits, reflection visits, assessment visits, state network meetings and training, it's a wonder they ever get to see their families – let alone their work mates in the HIPPY Australia office in Melbourne!

So this is an opportunity for us to say — on behalf of all those involved in HIPPY — thanks to our busy bee consultants, we appreciate the time spent away from home to support our sites. We would like to wish them an enjoyable time with their families over the Christmas break. Rest up, after all 2011 is going to be bigger than ever before!



Pictured: Some of the HIPPY consultants on the final day of the HIPPY international conference



HIPPY Fitzroy celebrates at their graduation party

A great number of proud and excited HIPPY children, HIPPY mothers and fathers, HIPPY siblings and HIPPY friends flocked to the Atherton Gardens community hall on 12 November for the 2010 HIPPY Fitzroy graduation.

On arrival, the children dressed in their HIPPY t-shirts and played making oversized bubbles with nifty bubble-making gadgets. Afterwards, the formal part of the graduation

took place where the HIPPY families were each presented with a certificate to acknowledge the commitment and hard work it takes to complete the two-year program that they speak so highly of.

Nesrin, a HIPPY Fitzroy mother, said a few words on stage during the ceremony. She said that HIPPY has helped to develop her child's skills and confidence and it has been a great program for her family.



Pictured: Tracy proudly displays her certificate

These sentiments were echoed in discussions among other HIPPY parents and friends of HIPPY. It was a fun event that summed up the relevance of HIPPY in the lives of many families in the Fitzroy community.

Thank you to Brotherhood staff, AXA volunteers, the Readings Foundation, the Smith Family and all of our partner organisations and individuals who have supported us throughout the year and made this event an enjoyable time spent together.

*Katherine Sciglitano
HIPPY Fitzroy Coordinator



Pictured: A family celebrate the graduation of their son and brother

Congratulations to all our graduating families!

2010 is almost over and for our age 5 families that means that many of you are graduating or preparing to graduate from HIPPY. The commitment and dedication of parents, carers, children, tutors and coordinators to the program and families amaze us everyday — well done on completing two years of HIPPY!



Pictured: Images from past graduations



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About HIPPY Australia

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that targets families with young children. It supports parents who may not feel confident to prepare their children for a successful early school experience.

HIPPY builds upon parental strengths and empowers parents to take an active role in their children’s education, development and overall wellbeing. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

HIPPY helps to develop stronger and more confident families, with an increased capacity to make the most of opportunities provided by mainstream education.



Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government.



redefining / financial services

HIPPY Australia is proud to acknowledge its partnership with AXA.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Happy holiday season from HIPPY Australia

Time flies when you’re having fun, and another HIPPY year is over!

Congratulations to all of our HIPPY sites for a successful year delivering HIPPY all over Australia.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe summer holiday. Best of luck to families who are leaving the program and for those of you coming back for age 5 in 2011, enjoy your break and we’ll see you in the new year!

Take care and happy holidays from everyone at HIPPY Australia!

6 Point to the row of pictures and say: **Let’s look at these pictures carefully.**



Show me the different picture. In what way is it different?

One picture is of Santa and all the rest are Christmas trees.

Mark it with a cross.

Things to think about and do

- Have a wonderful festive season!
- Best wishes for the new year!
- Take care and have a safe, enjoyable holiday!
- We look forward to working with you again next year!

