

Tutor opportunities aplenty at HIPPY Long Gully/ California Gully

Professional and career development for our HIPPY tutors is an important part of our development plan for 2011 at HIPPY Long Gully/ California Gully.

To that end, it was a pleasure to be able to offer traineeships to three eligible tutors this year. They have eagerly taken up the challenge of studying for a Certificate IV in Community Services. The tutors are thrilled that their studies are work embedded, on-site and take account of the extensive weekly training they do as HIPPY tutors. Their trainer, Hilda, has an understanding of HIPPY and

the role of the tutor, having previously conducted Certificate IV training for HIPPY tutors in Barwon. This experience helped Hilda to tailor the course to the needs of the three tutors. The tutors are enjoying the moral support of forming a little study group and can see the benefits in working together on projects and assignments.

Other professional development opportunities have recently arisen, such as participating in a workshop with the innovative and inspirational trainer, Anthony Semmann. This was highly stimulating and challenging, and



we are eager to participate in more events like this, which are run by the Loddon Mallee Early Years Services Network.

St Lukes has instigated a policy that all community services workers need to have a self-care plan. The recent professional development day in self-care was very enjoyable — as you can see in the photo of our tower building above! Our individual self-care plans will be a reference point in each supervision session. This is an excellent initiative. It is so important to maintain the good mental, emotional and physical health of workers in the community services sector.

Our new tutors are now very much looking forward to their three-day 'strength approach' training.

*Heather Brown, Coordinator



Pictured (from left): Melinda, Sharon and Anna (HIPPY tutors) with course trainer, Hilda

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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 (HIPPY) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Toy loans program – HIPPY Whyalla Stuart, SA

I am proud to announce that we have established a educational toys lending program for parents participating in HIPPY. This program has been made possible through the generous financial support of UnitingCare Wesley.

Families are able to access this new program for free through their home tutors during home visits or at parent groups.

The Educational Toy Loan Program helps parents to extend their children's learning outside of what the HIPPY program offers. The educational toys also offer parents the opportunity to engage in learning with their other younger children who are not old enough to do HIPPY.

The resources also support parents to do activities and play with their children to develop the child-parent relationship around learning, while also meeting the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework for Early Childhood and School education.

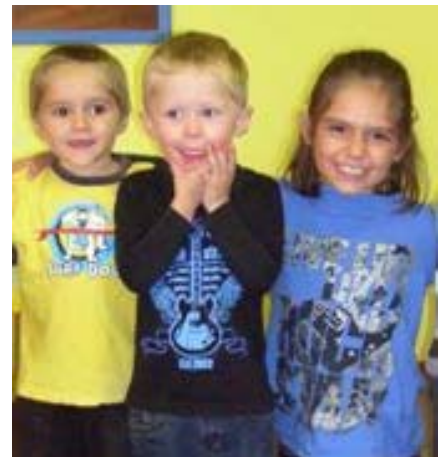
We started the Educational Toy Loan Program in March and have been recording the use of the resources. During our first week eight toys were borrowed by seven parents. Parents can keep the toys for up to two weeks.

Due to the success of the program, Andrew Cockington, Executive Manager of UnitingCare Wesley, has awarded HIPPY another financial grant of \$500 to buy extra resources for the Educational Toy Loan Program. This is fantastic news as the parents really love being able to borrow lots of different things. I'm also working with the Smith Family who have given me Let's Read resources – this is thanks to the Support of Onesteel's funding. So now the tutors can also deliver Let's Read books to many families. The Educational Toy Loan Program is a wonderful complementary addition to HIPPY.

* Mandy Goodland

You can find more information about the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework at: www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/index_fsrsa.asp?t=Home.

Information on the Smith Family's Let's Read program can be found at <http://www.letsread.com.au>.



Pictured: HIPPY Whyalla Stuart children at the recent Easter parent group.

Celebrations at HIPPY Campbelltown and Claymore

A Happy HIPPY Easter

HIPPY Campbelltown and Claymore came together for a day of Easter activities. The day was full of fun and laughter. Parents learnt to make their own playdough, the children gathered to get their faces painted, and everyone took part in the egg and spoon races. The highlight of the day was the Easter egg hunt. The children collected as many eggs as possible to fill their handmade, colourful baskets. The Easter activities were a great way to celebrate the end of the first term of HIPPY for 2011.



HIPPY Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated in style with a HIPPY Claymore mother's pamper day. The tutors showed our mums how to make their own handmade bath bombs and lavender pouches

while the children decorated photo frames to give to their mums. The mums relaxed with a hand massage given to them by their children and enjoyed a morning tea of freshly baked scones with jam and cream.

To end the day, the children gathered round for story time.

We would like to wish all our mums a very happy Mother's Day.

*Anne Tibbles



Being a HIPPY Whyalla Stuart home tutor



Pictured: Erica's son

While I have only been working for HIPPY for a short time, I'm pleased to report that I'm utterly enjoying every moment of it! My job as a HIPPY home tutor is rewarding and fulfilling far beyond anything I ever imagined I would get the chance to do

I love the challenges HIPPY provides, such as working with a diverse range of clients and colleagues, working with people to meet their individual needs through HIPPY, keeping organised and being punctual.

I have new stories everyday from being a HIPPY home tutor, fantastic stories from all my enthusiastic families and brilliant colleagues. Many of these stories are of success and accomplishment through learning.

I'm a great believer in education and empowering people with knowledge and life skills. I consider early education to be the fundamental solution to helping our future generations gain an advantage in life and to make a lasting and good impact within their communities.

The HIPPY program goes a long way to empowering families to make a difference from a very young age in their children's lives. It helps build trust, confidence and many other skills that the parents may not have had the chance to achieve, if not for the HIPPY opportunity.

The biggest positive I keep hearing is how great the methods of teaching are within HIPPY. While the three Cs are often met with scepticism at first (the first C is that parents should not say 'no' to their children), this is quickly cleared up when I explain in detail how the method works. Once they put the three Cs into practice, the feedback was glowing. I really believe that it would be of great benefit to our future generations if all education institutions employed this technique.

I personally have a great group of families, all with different ideas and ways of implementing the program. There is a vast amount of knowledge out there in our HIPPY families. I really like the idea of bringing us all together to share our knowledge to allow a better understanding of different approaches to teaching our children and learning ourselves.

Once we master how we are to run our larger parent groups, I think that these fortnightly meetings will allow for a great portal for this dissemination of information within a friendly and non-judgmental environment.

I am also enjoying the other programs we are employing here at our site. Starting our own little library with the Let's Read program complements HIPPY significantly. The tutor toy loans library we have put into operation is also on the path to success, with more educational toys about to join our collection, through more generous grants. The tutor toy loans library is a scheme where our families can loan toys to use in conjunction with the HIPPY activities or to use as a stand-alone educational resource.

The Smith Family provides us with the Let's Read program, together with the associated training and resources. It is an incentive for parents to borrow age-appropriate reading material for their children and to encourage them to read with their children, learn new ways of exploring books, and foster a love of books from an early age. Early exposure to books and a sense that books are great is important for future literacy when children arrive at school. The Let's Read program complements and further supports the HIPPY program in many ways.

I just love the HIPPY program and everything it stands for. My boy loves it too, he absolutely enjoys it all from the intense one-on-one time, to the learning of new concepts like horizontal and vertical (which I did not grasp until I was 12).

A big shout out to HIPPY Australia and our team here at Uniting Care Wesley Whyalla for making this a fantastic job. I look forward to coming to work each day with a large smile on my face and a bounce in my step.

* Erica Fabricius, Home Tutor



Pictured: Erica's son enjoys HIPPY



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Manoora, Qld

My name is Patricia Watts and I am the HIPPY coordinator at Manoora, which is a suburb in beautiful, tropical Cairns in far-north Queensland.

As I type the weather is warm and sunny with a tropical, balmy breeze blowing. We are in our new, spacious office at 3a/7 Anderson Street, which is just opposite the cemetery. We don't have any trouble from the neighbours so it's quiet and peaceful.

You would have all heard the fable of 'the tortoise and the hare'; well, I'm the hare (slow and steady). We haven't started delivering the program just yet. And as with anything new, I am finding that it takes a little while to accustom people to the idea and to be receptive. Although, we have all been trying to help establish the program by speaking up about HIPPY's virtues whenever and where ever possible.

I am finding that the majority of interest is coming from our Japanese community; they are very receptive to the idea.

Hopefully, in the near future, I will get our Aboriginal community on board. Through pulling a few strings and being in the know, I have a DEEWR worker on the Local Advisory Committee spreading the word in her community.

It is so true that it is not 'what you know' but 'who you know' that counts. And I am prepared to do whatever it takes because, as a trained teacher, I can recognise the benefits that this program will bring.

While I am at it, I would like to say 'hello' to all my colleagues who trained in Melbourne at the beginning of the year. I haven't forgotten you, I have just been very busy and I rarely use the computer at home. And besides, I am presently enjoying a wonderful, new romance (there's hope for all ladies over 60 let me tell you) and catching up with all the things I like doing like dancing, swimming, touring and weekends away. What a life!

Well, enough of the personal and back to the task at hand. At the Manoora site, if things keep going like they are, I am hoping to start deliveries in the not too distant future. But for now, I am hoping and praying for just a few more enrolments and then we will be up and running. There will be no stopping us then! HIPPY will be established in Cairns.

Cheers for now. Take care, stay safe and happy HIPPYing one and all.

*Patricia Watts



Pictured: Patricia at national training

HIPPY Salisbury North, SA



Pictured: Sarah at national training

Hi my name is Sarah Stevens. Salisbury North is a new site located in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

Our site gives us a challenging opportunity to work in a low-socioeconomic community with high unemployment and complex social issues.

We have employed three home tutors who have recently undertaken their training and are enthusiastically looking forward to working closely with the families enrolled in the program.

While the Salisbury North team is in its infancy, we expect that it will be a positive and rewarding learning journey for both families and staff.

We look forward to sharing the future progress and successes of our program!

*Sarah Stevens





Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY East Geraldton, WA

My name is Kelly Dowse and I am the proud coordinator of HIPPY East Geraldton. Geraldton is 424 km north of Perth. It is an important part of the mid-west and is the fourth largest city in WA. The main source of income for families is mining, fishing, farming, wheat and tourism.

The area our site encompasses offers a wide and diverse range of cultures (Aboriginal, Malay, Vietnamese and Caucasian). We are thrilled to have 14 families on board ready to start their HIPPY adventure on 17 May.

We have a gorgeous group of ladies and children who are all eager to

discover what HIPPY really means. With our two lovely tutors, Leanne and Heather, onboard, we look forward to discovering the joys and excitement the program might offer and will endeavour to make the HIPPY experience unique to each family.

A fun morning is being organised for the entire East Geraldton community. Planned for June, the morning will involve lots of HIPPY fun. A bouncing castle, face painting and many other activities will be offered, as well as having other local service providers present.

This coming term looks promising and I look forward to sending out more news in the coming months.

Best wishes to all starting out,

* Kelly Dowse



HIPPY Nowra, NSW



Pictured: Tutor training at HIPPY Nowra

My name is Roz Lawrence and I am the HIPPY coordinator for Nowra in NSW.

We now have three fantastic home tutors – Lania, Natalie and Cher – who have just completed their home tutor training with Sherri, who is my HIPPY consultant.

I participated in the home tutor training and I love it because it reinforced many of the ideas and concepts.

Our big news is that on Tuesday 17 May, we commenced training our new home tutors in HIPPY week 1 activities.

The tutors then did these activities with their children.

During the following week, the home tutors were trained in week 2 materials. During this week, the tutors delivered week 1 to HIPPY parents on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

I think that the penny has dropped! Yahoo!!!

Next week I am having a cuppa with the HIPPY parents and introducing our wonderful tutors. That's my HIPPY story so far.

* Roz Lawrence



Pictured: Nowra tutors receive their certificates at training



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Fairfield, NSW

Hello from HIPPY Fairfield. My name is Tracie Roe and I'm the new coordinator for the Fairfield site.

Fairfield is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Australia. More than half the residents were born overseas, mostly in non-English speaking countries. The majority of residents speak a language other than English at home.

Fairfield is mainly residential with mostly detached housing and some high-density residential development.

I have spent a lot of time networking and promoting the program to any body, at any service, at any event. This was a specific strategy as I know that, for this community, word of mouth, knowing the face behind the name and support from other ser-

vices are the key to getting the people of Fairfield and Villawood involved in the program.

I have started recruiting families and home tutors, which is very exciting! I hope to hold interviews for the home tutor positions by the end of May. Families are excited by the program and the opportunities it provides for their children in preparing for school.

A challenge has been to find two locations to hold the parent group meetings. The locations need to be accessible by foot or public transport as many families do not have cars. We need two locations as the site has two distinct areas, Fairfield and Villawood. With the support of the local Schools-as-Community project worker, I have been able to secure rooms at Fairfield Public School and

am working with another community service organisation to access another location in Villawood.

The community has been very supportive and open to the HIPPY program and I feel positive and encouraged by the cooperation and assistance I have received from other service providers.

Families are starting to talk, too. I received two phone calls today from mums wanting to know more about HIPPY. The HIPPY journey has begun in Fairfield.

*Tracie Roe



Pictured: Tracie Row

HIPPY West Ipswich, Qld

HIPPY West Ipswich is a new site that we are very excited to get up and running this year. Although we've had a slow start – mainly due to the floods – our partner agency, the Australian Red Cross, has been very supportive and continues to assist us to overcome each hurdle as it presents itself.

West Ipswich is a great community that has a strong sense of local pride. As we gradually win the support of other agencies and early childhood providers in the area, we're hearing of more and more families that are interested to come onboard.

We expect out HIPPY parents to come predominantly from English-speaking, low-income families. Ips-

wich also has a large Indigenous population that we hope to be able to reach in the future to play our part in working to 'close the gap'.

We have had some positive interest in the tutor positions and are looking to hire someone as soon as possible to help recruit families in time to kick-off at the beginning of the third school term.

We still have to lock-in the location for our group meetings but have a few options that we are able to consider. It is important that the venue is somewhere that HIPPY families can feel a sense of ownership and belonging.

I will be doing my absolute best to ensure that we live up to the well-earned reputation that HIPPY experiences throughout Australia and I'm so proud and grateful to be part of the family.

Oh, and if you have any contacts in Ipswich that might be able to help, please let me know!

* Alana Wahl



Pictured: Alana and her daughter Summer



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY West Tamworth, NSW

My name is Kim Smart and I'm the coordinator for HIPPY West Tamworth. HIPPY West Tamworth includes the areas of Coledale, Hillvue, Westdale and Oxley Vale, and is managed by Tamworth Family Support Service (TFSS).

I have lived in Australia for almost 22 years and I have been fortunate to work for TFSS for 18 years as the Supported Playgroup Coordinator.

Becoming part of the HIPPY organisation has been an exciting change of pace from my work with the TFSS, although the two positions complement one another quite nicely. It has only been a SMALL shock to the system (mine and my children's) having to work full-time for the first time in 22 years, but we are surviving!

As of this week, I have 16 families enrolled to start the program and three families yet to complete their enrolments. I haven't had as much luck employing someone to join me as a home tutor, but I'm ever hopeful that we will overcome this minor bump in the road in the very near future.

Since February I have been very busy promoting Hippy West Tamworth to

other community services as well as to the local community. I have visited several shopping centres and three library story times. I had an amazing interview for the local radio station (where we had people inquiring before the interview was finished!) and have visited all the local preschools and primary schools. I've put posters up all around town, and spoke at two inter-agency meetings where I provided information packs and pamphlets about HIPPY. I've put together 200 HIPPY packs to be handed out by community health nurses and the Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Centre during their immunisation and four-year-old health checks. I have also run two community notice bulletins with local media outlets, and had a 'come 'n' try morning'. We've also held a welcome to HIPPY party for enrolled families where they received their HIPPY boxes. I will be attending three family fun days in during National Families Week, where I hope to encourage more families to participate in HIPPY.

All enrolled families were sent a welcome card, and are receiving updates via text message and the

newly approved Facebook page.

It was very exciting to receive a \$120 donation from the North Tamworth Rotary Club to put towards HIPPY box items. I'm hoping other community groups will provide a small donation to assist this great program.

I have enjoyed the challenges of the past couple of months and look forward to finding my tutors and working with our families. The job has been made much easier because of the support and training that we received in Melbourne and the positive and helpful encouragement that we receive from our HIPPY consultants.

*Kim Smart



Pictured: Kim Smart at Coordinator Training

HIPPY Davoren Park, SA

Hi everyone, my name is Rebecca Hanchett and I'm the coordinator at Novita Children's Services HIPPY at Davoren Park, which is a new site in Adelaide. I'm based at Northern Area Community Youth Services (NACYS), which is in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

I have only just commenced in the

coordinator role so I am rapidly learning and promoting HIPPY and telling everyone who has a youngster! I am in the exciting process of recruiting and enrolling families and tutors.

Davoren Park is predominately a low-socioeconomic area with a large percentage of multi-generational

unemployment. Recently there's been a lot of re-development to help improve the area; including the opening of a new super school.

I am extremely excited to be working with HIPPY and am looking forward to meeting my new tutors and families!

*Rebecca Hanchett



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Robinvale, Vic.



Pictured: HIPPY children displaying their beautiful masks that they made at the HIPPY Morning

Hi, I'm Estelle Rush. I'm the coordinator at HIPPY Robinvale and I work for Robinvale District Health Services.

Robinvale is a remote, rural community in northern Victoria on the banks of the Murray River. It's 135km north-west of Swan Hill and 88km east of Mildura. HIPPY Robinvale

includes three smaller communities, Manangatang, Boundary Bend and Euston, which is located across the river in New South Wales. Robinvale is a horticultural region.

Our community is very multicultural with a high number of itinerate workers coming through town.

There is a large population of Indigenous and Pacific Island peoples, as well as families from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, India, Italy and Greece.

HIPPY has been really well received. We have 35 families enrolled, which is a great achievement as there are only approximately 80 children who are four years old in our combined communities.

We have appointed three home tutors who were trained in mid-May. In early April we ran a HIPPY morning tea, so current parents could meet each other and interested parents could come along. The children really enjoyed decorating masks and playing with play-dough. Everyone is really excited and keen for the program to start.

*Estelle Rush



Pictured (from left): Estelle with home tutors Jodie, Stam and Mary

HIPPY Riverwood, NSW

Hello everyone. My name is Elean (pronounced 'Elaine') Chan. I'm the coordinator of HIPPY Riverwood in NSW. Here in Riverwood and its surrounds, we have a diverse range of families enrolled in the HIPPY program.

Riverwood is bordered by the suburbs of Punchbowl, Roselands, Narwee, Peakhurst and Padstow. Parts of Riverwood fall under Canterbury City Council, while the rest of Riverwood falls under Hurstville City Council.

We have families who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic and Urdu – and it's likely that families who speak other languages will join the mix soon! Our parents who are keen to be home tutors have also come from diverse backgrounds. Some were

teachers in Australia or in other countries.

We have promoted the HIPPY program widely: at 'story times' at the library, in the local shopping centre, by visiting and mailing information to local agencies, through letterbox drops, and even a free mini-movie screening.

Our best allies have been the kind and helpful staff at Riverwood Library, the principals of local schools (particularly Riverwood Public School, which has a preschool attached to it), our local shopping plaza manager (who has let us set up a table there several times for free), SDN Children's Services (a not-for-profit children's service whose staff have enthusiastically told families about our program) and the

Riverwood Community Centre staff (who have helped spread the word to the families of the many preschoolers who pass through their doors).

I should mention that the manager of our local Officeworks store in Punchbowl, Scott, has generously helped us to print many posters, brochures and flyers free of charge – for which we are extremely grateful!

I am very excited to see what the upcoming weeks bring, and hope to share news about our first home visits and parent group meetings soon!

*Elean Chan





Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Ashmont, NSW

My name is Lyn and I'm the new co-ordinator at HIPPY Ashmont.

Ashmont is a suburb of Wagga Wagga, which is located on the Murrumbidgee River at the eastern end of the Riverina in NSW.

The original Aboriginal inhabitants of the Wagga Wagga region were the Wiradjuri people, and many of the families in our community are Aboriginal families.

HIPPY is a great program for the community and we are excited when parents tell us they look forward to having special one-on-one time with their child, and to help them prepare for school. We are also excited when the kids can't wait to do their 'homework'.

We are still recruiting families, and have one super-keen home tutor ready to go!

We have had two great morning tea/

craft activity days so families can get to know each other, and the kids can play together.

* Lyn Reilly



Pictured (from left): Jessica, Aaliyah, Cassandra, Isabella, Sharon, Corinne, Jenny, Lyn, Cally, Will, Ben, Emily and Haylie. Photo is by courtesy of the *Wagga Daily Advertiser*.

HIPPY Frankston North, Vic.

Hello from HIPPY in Frankston! Our site started off focusing on Frankston North, which is a small (approx. 5km²) part of Frankston in Victoria. Frankston is on the southern edge of Melbourne – just before you hit the Mornington Peninsula. We are lucky to be right on the edge of Port Phillip Bay, with beautiful beaches and bush reserves.

Frankston's population largely consists of families whose forebears emigrated from the United Kingdom several generations ago. Frankston has a small Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander population and a small group of families who have moved from New Zealand. We

are also beginning to welcome an increasing number of families with other diverse cultural backgrounds.

It took a while to find a home for HIPPY, but we are happy to now be settled in the Frankston North Neighbourhood Centre, and have benefited from being (temporarily) co-located with the Maternal and Child Health Service.

Because of the relatively small number of families in Frankston North with HIPPY-aged children, our site has been extended to include three neighbouring areas: Karingal, Seaford East and Frankston Central.

We have 18 families enrolled so far, and our first two home tutors will be starting soon. We're hopeful that lots more families will be keen to get involved now that we are promoting

to the larger area. Some families enrolled in early March, so we thank them for their patience, and look forward to getting everyone together soon, to meet and celebrate the beginning of the program.

* Louise Mackinnon



Pictured: Louise Mackinnon



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Dallas Broadmeadows, Vic.

Hi, my name is Kath, and I'm the new coordinator at HIPPY Dallas-Broadmeadows.

Dallas-Broadmeadows is in Melbourne's outer-northern suburbs. Located in the City of Hume, our site is in an area of rich cultural and linguistic diversity, with many of its residents speaking Arabic, Assyrian, Turkish, Somali, among others.

The City of Hume has an active early years space, and has embraced HIPPY in the community.

We recently had a well-attended HIPPY launch party where enrolled

families, interested families and services came together to share fun and food (and even a HIPPY cake!).

We have one tutor onboard, and are in the process of employing two more. There is a lot of enthusiasm from the families, so hopefully we can start delivery in the coming few weeks, and get HIPPY-ing!

This is a photo from our launch party – cutting the HIPPY decorated cake!

*Katherine Benfer



HIPPY Caboolture, Qld

As Caboolture HIPPY has only just started, I'm calling the month of May my 'promo month'. This means that I have been going out into the community and letting everyone know about the fantastic program we have for offer!

I have been visiting local childcare centres and services, such as play groups, swimming schools, library story time and community fun days. I will also be doing a shopping centre display at our local Morayfield shopping centre. So if you are in the area, please pop in and say, 'hi'!

I would like to welcome my first four families to the HIPPY program who are excited and can't wait to start!

I'm overwhelmed by the positive feedback I've received and the excitement of the other services in my Caboolture/Morayfield community. I have already laid the foundations for a lasting relationship with these services.

These services include the Red Cross Family Wellbeing – Redcliff/Caboolture branch; our local neighbourhood centre, and Caboolture Primary State School — which has provided us with a location to meet. We have already organised fun days and special events in the next coming months!

I came upon an article on the web that I thought summed up the importance of what HIPPY stands for and how important our role is in delivering the program into our local community. I would like to share a quote from this article:

'Parents are their children's first and primary teachers' ... 'Our children look to us for so much in life. And what we do matters more than what we say. They watch how we spend our time, how we use our money, how we treat others and how we care for them.' (from 'The importance of parents as teachers', by

Patrice Fagnant-McArthur, 1 September 2010.)

Thank you to the HIPPY family for your support in my first month. I'm looking forward to sharing the excitement of our HIPPY Caboolture program starting next month!

* Cathy Harber



Pictured: Cathy Harber, Coordinator



Introducing our new HIPPY sites for 2011



HIPPY Dandenong, Vic.



My name is Tatjana and I am the new coordinator at the HIPPY Dandenong site. Dandenong is in south-east Victoria.

Many families in our community are newly arrived in Australia and English is their second language.

We are excited to see what effects HIPPY will have on the families in our community.

We have employed two tutors and are fast recruiting families who are very keen to start their HIPPY journey in the next few weeks.

On 11 May we held a HIPPY welcome morning tea for the families who had enrolled. Despite the very cold and showery day, the attendance was excellent and everyone had fun.



The morning tea was a great opportunity for parents meet each other, and to practice doing some HIPPY activities with their children. The two home tutors also attended the morning tea, so all the parents got to meet them as well.

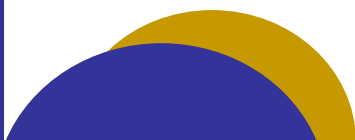
We have been encouraging parents to attend group meetings where they can discuss their child's progress, and talk about parents teaching parents and parents teaching children.



It is our enthusiastic hope that recognition of the value of HIPPY – as well as the participation of more families in Dandenong – will enable preschool youngsters to enter school prepared and confident for learning. HIPPY Dandenong is still recruiting; around 15 more families are needed.

With the loving involvement of their parents and the desire to learn, Dandenong children are certain to succeed!

* Tatjana Krneta



Laying the foundations at HIPPY Fairfield

HIPPY Fairfield is up and running and the HIPPY fun has begun.

As a new site, HIPPY Fairfield is in the initial stages of building relationships with other organisations and programs. We are doing this by taking a proactive, positive approach to making contact with organisations. We have presented to key leaders in the community, shared information at team meetings, presented at inter-agency meetings and have offered to be involved in community events. By doing this, we have started laying the foundations of strong, supportive partnerships with a variety of service providers.

HIPPY Fairfield has formed a partnership with Fairfield Public School. The school has kindly provided two

rooms for parent group meetings.

This support came about through presenting HIPPY to the Schools as Communities project worker. She suggested we talk to the school as she had no space in her rooms but could see the many benefits of HIPPY for the community. She then introduced me to the Deputy Principal and from this introduction a plan was developed and rooms organised.

At the HIPPY coordinator training, Jane Harrison said that 'with strong, respectful relationships anything is possible'. This is what I'm working towards to ensure that HIPPY opens up possibilities for the families of Fairfield and Villawood.

*Tracie Roe



Pictured: Villawood community garden fun day. HIPPY Fairfield worked beside Community First Step providing information about HIPPY and activities for the children. We made butterfly finger puppets, daffodil pin wheels and paper caterpillars.

A new home for HIPPY La Perouse, NSW

Hello from HIPPY La Perouse! We want to share with you all our exciting news!

For the last 10 years we have been based at La Perouse Primary School. At this school we had our own room – which we have enjoyed and been extremely grateful for – but have always wanted our own space where we could come and go as we need and be able to access during the school holidays.

Our exciting news is that we have been successful in receiving funding, which we are putting towards the construction of our own HIPPY building!



Pictured: Our new site!

The building is behind the Gujaga MACS Child Care Centre, which is one of our biggest supporters.

The construction will commence in a couple of months, and we are hoping that by the end of 2011, La Perouse will have its very own HIPPY building!

We are surrounded by other community organizations, such as the La Perouse Land Council, La Perouse Youth Haven, the Women and Men's groups and the Aboriginal Medical Service.

HIPPY La Perouse will be exactly where we need to be: in the middle of everything and everyone, and completely accessible.

We want to thank HIPPY Australia, La Perouse Primary School, the La Perouse community and Gujaga MACS for their continued help and support.

*Victoria Doyle, Coordinator



Pictured: Many services, programs and courses are held next door



Pictured: The Aboriginal Land council is behind our new building.



Pictured: The Aboriginal Medical Service is across the road

Laughter is the best medicine at HIPPY North Dubbo

On the 3 May 2011, HIPPY North Dubbo hosted 'laughter yoga' at our parent gathering.

The guest speaker, Sue Curly, demonstrated laughter exercises designed to enhance our childlike playfulness.

Sue explained that laughter:

- is one of the most cost-effective remedies for stress reduction
- boosts the immune system
- contributes to health and wellbeing.

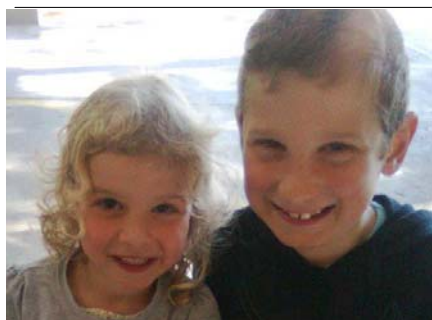
The 'laughter yoga' was an excellent ice-breaker and brought the parents out of their comfort zone. It started conversations and everyone felt com-

fortable with each other. It was a jolly good time had by all.

* Kim McNaught & Tracy McCabe, HIPPY North Dubbo Home Tutors



HIPPY Braybrook 'shapes and colours' parent group



During the recent April school holidays, HIPPY Braybrook held a 'shapes and colors' themed craft activity par-

ent group. This theme was chosen to fit into the current stage of delivery of the Age 4 HIPPY curriculum. All families currently enrolled in the 4-year-old and 5-year-old HIPPY Braybrook groups were invited.

We set up six different craft activities for families to undertake. The tactile activities that encouraged creativity were the most popular.

There was a great turn out to this par-

ent group, with 46 children, parents and tutors attending.

An unexpected outcome was that this group provided an opportunity for parents enrolled at HIPPY Braybrook to meet tutors other than their own tutor.

It a great day with lots of creativity, laughter and fun!

* Linda Baker, Coordinator

What's cooking in the Launceston community, Tas.

HIPPY Launceston is working with the Migrant Resource Centre Playgroup, CHAT and the Northern Suburbs Community Centre to deliver enrichment activities to the Bhutanese and African families enrolled in HIPPY.

The Migrant Resource Centre Playgroup wanted to embark on a food awareness program to explore what things taste, smell and look like.

As both the playgroup and HIPPY are involved with the same families, a collaborative process started around the delivery of a food awareness program.

At a playgroup in May, the HIPPY tutors facilitated a discussion by, and invited comments from, the Bhutanese and African families about the food program.

After the June school holidays, every three weeks the MRC Playgroup and the HIPPY migrant families will participate in the food awareness program.

The aims of the program are to introduce a variety of ingredients and food experiences using traditional and new recipes, food handling and eating in different environments.

Food prepared will be quick, simple, inexpensive, tasty and nutritious. The cooking sessions will be organised by CHAT and the kitchen will be accessed at Anglicare.

Farm visits have been organised so the families can experience having a picnic, get out of the city and interact with animals. Visits to the Peace Garden at the Northern Suburbs Community Centre Archer Street site are organised so the families can help cultivate the veggie patch and hopefully leave with some produce.

*Ann Smith, Coordinator

HIPPY Girrawheen, reflections on term 1

Reflective practice is very important to the work we do at Ngala and at HIPPY because ***we do not learn from doing, we learn from thinking about what we do.***

In our work with people, we never arrive at perfection, and we can always keep learning, whether we have been doing a job for 2 months or 20 years.

Reflection itself is quite simple, but not necessarily easy. It is a discipline to take the time to think about our work, and to ask 'What was happening for me in that moment?'

One of the ways we build reflective practice into our work at HIPPY Girrawheen is to reflect on the term that has just finished.

At the last training session of term 1 we spent time reflecting with the Age 4 tutors. Just 10 weeks ago they had started their training full of trepidation and questions. Now they have delivered Week 6 to most of their families, have participated in their first parent meeting, and are feeling much more confident about their role. It was very encouraging for us all to look back on how far they had come.

We asked four simple questions:

- What was the best thing about this term for you?
- What was the most challenging thing about this term?
- Were there any surprises for you?
- What would you like to do differently next term?

Here are some of the responses to these questions.

Positives:

'Some parents act as though it is condescending, or too easy, but then find there are challenges, such as a

family where the child had difficulty cutting.'

'Some families did not really see why it was important and were not sure about it at the beginning; they only joined because Eh Yout May had recommended it. Now they are enjoying it and see that their child is learning.'

'One child came to visit and was pointing to shapes, e.g. the clock is a circle. The parents are very happy.'

'Some families who have good English think it is going to be easy and assume their children know all the things already, but then find there are some concepts the child doesn't understand (e.g. up and under).'

Challenges:

'When families can't be contacted. Also when families are disorganised it is frustrating; assumed they would be more organised. Have had to accept what is 'normal' for me is not normal for other families.'

'When lots of children around, distracting during role-play; takes longer because of interruptions.'

'Language is an issue. Some parents want the older sibling/s to do it because their English is better.' (In this instance, the tutor can make notes in the parents' first language and assure them it is okay to mix the languages when they do the activities with children.)

Surprises:

'Parents who changed their ideas about reading; that it is not just about "doing it" and getting the story read without interruptions/interaction, but an opportunity to connect and be close to their child. One family in particular where the mother has really

noticed how time reading together has helped build a closer relationship with her sons.'

'Thought it would be hard work and worried about fitting everything in, but it has been better than expected. Surprised by some families thought would not succeed – lots of kids and little English – but they have been committed and kept going, giving samples. They "read" the pictures in the books.'

'One family was talking about withdrawing before she even started as she was concerned her child would not be able to do it. Since week 2 has not mentioned it again. She has seen similar activities at school so sees the value in doing them at home with HIPPY.'

Changes?

'More time for supervision, and to be separate from training.'

As a coordinator I was very encouraged by this reflective time because it shows how flexible HIPPY is. So many lovely stories came out from all the tutors. We have newly arrived families from Burma who speak very little English, Somali families who have been in Australia for longer but still face many challenges, and Australian-born families. All are benefitting from HIPPY in different ways, and are coming together and learning from each other.

I hope the tutors were also affirmed in the great job they are doing, and how much they have learned in a short time.

*Jacquie Mayne, Coordinator



HIPPY Australia's March coordinator training

In March the HIPPY Australia team gathered at the Metropole in Fitzroy for the second round of training for the year. This training was attended by the representatives of our sites in Bowenfels, Caboolture, East Geraldton, Elizabeth Grove, Fairfield, Geelong, Moreland and Windale.

Day one was attended by the line managers and coordinators. The rest of the week was reserved for coordinator business only.

The week was facilitated by HIPPY Australia consultants Sandra and Nicola. Throughout the week guest speakers were invited to present to

the group. The speakers included the HIPPY Winchelsea Coordinator, Kim Coulter, and her home tutor team; the Brotherhood HIPPY line manager, Carolyn Pickett, and her coordinators, Katherine, Louise and Jan; Jane Harrison from SNAICC; and Vicky from HIPPY La Perouse.

Many thanks to those who presented, and an even bigger thanks to the attendees who once again displayed such passion and dedication to the program over a long week of training.



Pictured: Attendees at the March training



Starting Age 5 at HIPPY Mansfield Park, SA

HIPPY Mansfield Park has now started the Age 5 part of the program and we are enjoying the change.

We have a range of parent group topics for Age 5 and each of our tutors is going to run a parent group. The tutors have said they are looking forward to this opportunity and one tutor said it will be a good challenge and a great experience for them. They are going to select their own topic and spend some time researching or finding a guest speaker who relates to the area. I am really looking forward to seeing their parent group sessions and I think this reflects how much our tutors have learnt in the past year.

When the HIPPY team looked at the first Age 5 pack in tutor training the tutors were impressed with the different look of the books and really liked the information that was provided for

parents. They felt as though the new look packs would be another thing that could encourage families to continue in the program.

Some comments made by the families in the program were:

'At first I wasn't sure because it all looked so different but now I know where the activities are and my child loves that they have their own special book to look after. He says "Mummy this is my book you get your book out".'

'We were worried about how to fit HIPPY in now that Adam is going to school as well. I have had to look at where to fit the activities in. We are still trying to fit them all in but we like the new books and I like the overview in Parent Pack 1, now I know what will happen for the rest of the year.'

One of the children in the program mentioned that they are learning the same things at school and they 'feel good' because they know the answers. They like having their own coloured HIPPY book and that mum has her own book too.

A parent from a CALD background mentioned how they love that they've learnt a lot of English from HIPPY and having the Parent Pack has helped them learn a lot more terminology about their child's education.

As you can see from the comments above both the parents and children in the program are really enjoying the new Age 5 format. I am really enjoying the phone calls I get with positive feedback about the program. We look forward to seeing what more Age 5 has to offer throughout the year.

* Vanessa Wardle, Coordinator



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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 targeting 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 well-being. 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.

HIPPY Australia would like to thank all of its funding bodies and individuals for their support. We could not do it without you.



**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 Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

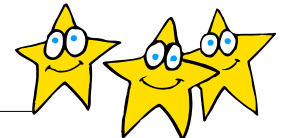


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HIPPY Australia is proud to acknowledge its partnership with AXA

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.

Shining stars at HIPPY Cabramatta



Chau Bao

Chau Bao started the Age 4 HIPPY program in 2010. Her English and Vietnamese speech were both limited and her pronunciation was unclear. She had limited listening skills, pencil and cutting skills.

Chau Bao's mum, Nhu Yen Phung, didn't know where to start to help her child. HIPPY helped her to know what Chau Bao needed and gave her the skills to support her daughter.

Chau Bao started school this year and HIPPY helped her with her sounds and letters, listening skills, reading, writing, and story telling. She is now speaking in sentences and her speech is clearer. Chau Bao's mum can't believe how well she has done and where she is up to developmentally since doing HIPPY. Chau Bao has received awards from school for listening and good work.

Chau Bao attended a preschool program run by Schools as Communities (SACs). SACs have been great supporters of the HIPPY program; they have provided referrals to HIPPY and have been on our advisory committee.

Eden Hoang

Eden Hoang is a little girl who joined our Age 4 program in 2010. Eden has autism and in the beginning her mother, Jenny Lam, wasn't sure if Eden was understanding what she was doing with her.

As they progressed in the program, Jenny realised that HIPPY complemented Eden's speech and occupational therapy and she began to see results.

Jenny likes the way HIPPY uses everyday objects and activities to support learning – as these are familiar to Eden and relevant to their everyday activities.

Eden is in a special unit at school and the teachers are amazed at how quickly she picks up things. Eden received an award for knowing 20 sight words and 15 sounds. Jenny said that what Eden has learnt in HIPPY has helped her at school. The transition to school was less stressful for Eden as the things being taught were familiar to her. Jenny said that HIPPY gave her the tools she needed to help with Eden's learning. * Isobel McKay, Coordinator



Pictured: Eden Hoang (above) and Chau Bao (right)

