

Home Interaction Program for Parents & Youngsters (HIPPY)

HIPPY Program Outline for Participating Families

HIPPY is a **FREE** home-based parenting and early childhood learning program. It empowers and supports parents as their child's first teacher, giving children the best chance of a successful start to school.

Learning Begins at Home

HIPPY helps create a learning environment at home to encourage a love of learning. HIPPY is based around the Australian curriculum. Parents are encouraged to read, play and do fun activities with their child at home. In addition to home visits, parents also attend group meetings once a fortnight, providing a safe, comfortable place for parents to meet other local families, build new friendships and develop new skills.

You Are Your Child's First Teacher

HIPPY aims to support families during the crucial early years and understands the important role you play in your child's learning. Families are enrolled in the program the year their child begins Kindy, usually around 3½ to 4 years of age Turning 4 before June 30th of the Kindy year. HIPPY increases parents' confidence, and provides information about child development and the way children learn. It gives parents opportunities to enjoy positive time with their children and allows them to be actively involved in their child's education.

Early Years Mentors

Each family is assigned a Mentor. Your Mentor has been involved in the HIPPY program with their own child and lives in your community. Your Mentor will visit you once a fortnight for about one hour in your home. During that time, they will:

- Talk to you about how the program is going
- Practice play the next week's activity book.

Home Visits

You and your Mentor will organise a suitable appointment time. A regular weekly appointment is usually best. Have your HIPPY information close at hand for these visits. If, for any reason, you cannot be home for your set appointment time, please contact your Mentor as soon as possible.

Program Delivery in Home Visits.

1 activity pack per week Age 4, 1 per fortnight Age 5. Parents are asked to spend up to 1 hour a week with their mentor. The HIPPY program involves parents and children working together on a series of activities for:

- 10 - 15 minutes per day,
- five days a week,
- two years (30 weeks each year during school terms).

What's in The Activity Packs?

HIPPY activities promote early literacy and numeracy skills; develop concentration, listening, and self-confidence. The first year (Age 4) offers fun, stimulating and varied learning experiences through activities and storybooks. The second year (Age 5) builds on activities from the first year, to strengthen concepts and skills. It also offers learning and development information for parents. There is no need for special equipment as the activities use materials that you would find around your home.

The activities don't all involve using the HIPPY booklet – you can take your Activities outside, do them while you go for a walk, in the sandpit or the bath, on the trampoline etc. For example, you might look at different sizes, shapes or colours; find letters of your child's name etc.

HIPPY Group Meetings

Group meetings will enable you to:

- receive your next week's activity pack,
- share different interesting activities and learn from a range of guest speakers,
- meet other HIPPY families, discuss your shared experiences and take a break from home.
- You are welcome to bring children, who will remain in your duty of care. A safe play space is provided

Employment Opportunities

Parents participating in HIPPY with their child may have the opportunity to be employed and trained as Mentors. Mentors receive weekly training and visit parents in their homes on a weekly/ FN basis, providing support, guidance, activities and educational resources.

How Can I Enrol In HIPPY?

To enrol in the program your child must be Kindy age. Turning 4 before 30th June 2020
Children do not have to be going to Kindy they can be home schooled or just not enrolled into Kindy

There is a priority of access – Parent/Carer must have 1 of the criteria below. Have not have done Hippy before and must live in the shire catchment area

Live in the catchment Area of Armadale, Serpentine Jarrahdale, Byford shire	HCC	ATSI	Out Home CARE or Has a carer	Receiving GOVT Support	SINGLE PARENT	Child has a developmental delay	CALD English is second language	Referred From agency, school etc
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For any further enquiries please contact

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