

Mobile County



Lead Agency	Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast
Agency Address	2448 Gordan Smith Drive, Mobile, AL 36617
HIPPY Address	109 South Cedar Street, Mobile, AL 36606
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HIPPY Fax	251-441-0014
Director	Terri Bowlin
Director Phone	251-380-7162
Coordinator	Dr. Grace Wyatt Reese
Coordinator Email	gwreese@hippymobile.com



Year Program Started	1998
Number of Families Served in 2010/2011	128
Number of Children Served in 2010/2011	135
Number in the 4-Year-Old Program 10/11	58
Number in the 3-Year-Old Program 10/11	77
Number of Coordinators	1
Number of Parent Educators	4
Number of Areas(Neighborhoods) Served	9
Areas Served	Downtown Mobile, Eight Mile, Highway 90, MLK Community, Maysville, Oakleigh Garden District, Prichard, Saraland and West Mobile
Number of Schools Served	14
Schools Served	Belsaw – Mt. Vernon, Booth, Brazier, Burroughs, Collins – Rhodes, Craighead, Dixon, Dodge, Eichold – Mertz, Fonde, Fonville, Gilliard, Glendale, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Indian Springs , John Will, Just 4, Lee Intermediate School, Lee Primary, Leinkauf, Maryvale, Morningside, Robbins, St. Elmo, Westlawn, and Roger Williams Day Care Center
Number of Students Tested in 2009/2010	159
Percentage of Students that Passed 09/10	97%

Program Overview

The HIPPY Mobile County program began in 1998 under the leadership of the *Mobile Education Foundation*. As of October 2010, HIPPY Mobile is, once again, under the leadership of the *Mobile Area Education Foundation*. The *Foundation* is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the local public schools. The *Foundation's* mission is to build community responsibility for improving public education outcomes in Mobile County. This agency works with, but is independent of, the Mobile County Public School System.

In 2008, the HIPPY Mobile program moved into a new facility, after years of sharing office/training space with other programs. HIPPY Mobile is now housed in its own building. As a result, the program has been able to grow and expand to other communities. As a result of expansion, HIPPY has enrolled students in Bayou La Batre, Irvington, Grand Bay, Maysville, MLK Community, Plateau,

Dauphin Island Parkway, Midtown, Morningside and Creighton communities. Mobile County covers a large area, both urban and rural; we serve diverse populations with a large community of Asian families. This year, HIPPY Mobile was directly involved with the social service needs of HIPPY families in the south Mobile County communities following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Collaborative Partnerships	City of Mobile’s Community Development Depart., City of Mobile’s Council Members, Mobile County Commissioners, AI Power Foundation, AI Power Service Organization, Bay Area Women’s Coalition, Mobile Housing Board, Early Intervention Council, Mobile County Public Schools, So AI Family Day Care Association, Federation of Child Care Centers of AI (FOCAL), Office of School Readiness, Mobile County Children’s Policy Council, Mobile County Helping Families Team, United Methodist Inner City Mission, Boys & Girls Clubs of Mobile, Junior League of Mobile, and Child Day Care Association
Funding Sources	Alabama Legislature, Mobile Public Schools, Bedsole Foundation, Figures Legacy Foundation, Mobile County School System, At Risk, Title I, City of Mobile, Mobile Housing Board, and Junior League of Mobile

HIPPY Success Story from Mobile County

Parent Educator, Andria Darlene Brown

When Theodore entered the kindergarten class, he could not count or recognize any of the alphabet. He could not even recognize some of the letters in his name. It seemed as if he would struggle this year and might have to be retained at the end of the school year. Ms. Franklin, his teacher, started working with him daily and once a week, I worked with him during my volunteer time. I volunteer at the school and work in the classrooms of my HIPPY children every week for one day per week. This is a requirement of the HIPPY Mobile program.

I started working with Theodore at school during volunteer time and at home after the regular role-playing time with his mom. Theodore has really started to show a lot of improvement, and mom has become more involved with his HIPPY home activities and school work.

Mom has also enrolled in a money management class and is trying to improve her financial picture for herself and for her family. I have encouraged her to stay on top of the finances, as often the power would be off in the home. Through continuous talks and by referring her to several different agencies to get some help for herself and her family, things have gotten so much better. For me, this is truly a success story for when a family with limited amount of resources learns how to manage those resources better and how to help their children with their education, we are all better off.





Home Instructions for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

HIPPY Mobile Fact Sheet



The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program, an initiative of the Mobile Area Education Foundation, offers home based early childhood education of three, four, five and six year old children working with their parent(s) as their first teacher. The parent is provided with a set of carefully developed curriculum, materials, and storybooks designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/ emotional and physical development.

MISSION

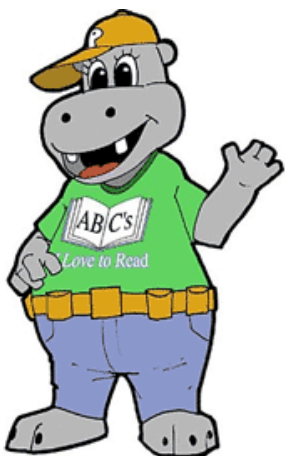
HIPPY is dedicated to empowering parents to view themselves as the primary educators of their children-teaching the joy of learning.

HISTORY

HIPPY was developed at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Research Institute for Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in 1969. The first HIPPY program was established in the United States 1984. In 1998, two new HIPPY programs (with the exception of Montgomery HIPPY, 1993) were started in Mobile and Sylacauga, Alabama. The three HIPPY Alabama sites served over 3,300 families of diverse cultural backgrounds. As of 2010, there are now 33 HIPPY sites across Alabama counties.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

HIPPY Mobile started in the Mobile community in 1998 with the Mobile Area Education Foundation, Carolyn Akers- Chief Executive Officer. Over the thirteen years of its existence, HIPPY Mobile has served over 1650 children and families. There are 172 HIPPY programs in 30 states, the District of Columbia and the island of Guam.



**For additional information contact
Mobile Area Education Foundation
The HIPPY Mobile Program
(251) 441-0004 Office
(251) 441-0014 Fax
109 South Cedar Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602**

POPULATION SERVED

HIPPY programs across the United States serve families with preschool youngsters ages 3, 4, 5. HIPPY also serves the parents of the HIPPY child. The numbers of HIPPY children enrollment also include the same number of parents served.

CURRICULUM

The **HIPPY** curriculum is cognitively based with the skills in emotional, social, and physical development. In addition, other skills such as early literacy, problem-solving, reading readiness, visual discrimination and story comprehension are stressed. Other subjects, addressed by HIPPY, include science, math, writing and language development. Each

"HIPPY helped me become my child's first teacher!"

- HIPPY Parent

HIPPY child receives 30 weeks of HIPPY activities, nine storybooks and a set of HIPPY shapes. Other HIPPY materials and props are purchased by the local HIPPY program. Parents and children spend 15-20 minutes per day completing the HIPPY activities.

INSTRUCTIONS

HIPPY parent educators visit parents in the home every week bringing a storybook and a packet of HIPPY activities for the week. Parent educators serve as mentors for the HIPPY parents and discuss any parenting concerns that may affect the family. Often parent educators refer HIPPY families to needed community resources in order to address the needs of the family outside of the HIPPY program. Every month parents attend a HIPPY Parent Group Meeting with other parents, HIPPY staff and volunteers.



HIPPY Mobile County Program

Our Mission: **HIPPY is dedicated to empowering parents to view themselves as the primary educators of their children, teaching the joy of learning.**

Sustaining the involvement of disadvantaged families in a family education program is difficult because:

- Families may participate sporadically,
- Or quickly drop out of the program.

Innovative programs, like HIPPY, have developed particular combinations of design components, services and staff that promote successful retention. (See: Cataldo & Salzer1982).

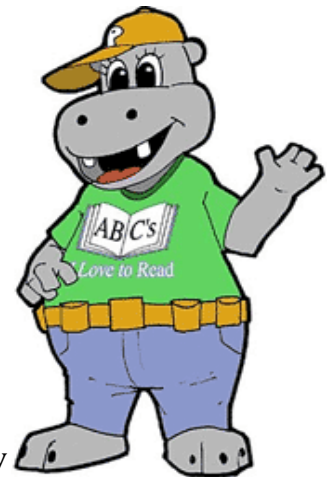
WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW:

- Currently, HIPPY Mobile program has served over 1,500 children and families.
- The Mobile Area Education Foundation has been an advocate for ensuring a quality public education for all children in Mobile County since 1992.
- Current Staff- 5 full-time: 4 parent educators, a coordinator and a program director.
- The HIPPY Mobile Program was established in1998.
- The population served by our agency includes parents & children from the following communities: Downtown Mobile, Eight Mile, Highway 90, MLK Community, Maysville, Oakleigh Garden District, Prichard, Saraland and West Mobile.



MEMBERS, ALABAMA STATE HIPPY ORGANIZATION:

- Member, United Way
- Member, Early Intervention Program
- Member, Early Childhood Directions
- Member, HIPPY USA National Organization
- Member, Children Policy Council
- Member, Helping Families Team Initiative



SCHOOLS SERVED:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Belsaw – Mt. Vernon | • Fonville | • Lee Primary |
| • Booth | • Gillard | • Leinkauf (current) |
| • Brazier | • Glendale | • Maryvale |
| • Burroughs | • Hall | • Morningside |
| • Collins – Rhodes (current) | • Hamilton | • Robbins |
| • Craighead | • Howard | • St. Elmo |
| • Dixon | • Indian Springs | • Westlawn |
| • Dodge | • John Will (current) | • Roger Williams Day Care Center |
| • Eichold – Mertz | • Just 4 | |
| • Fonde (current) | • Lee Intermediate School | |

Early Intervention Program Helps Children in Four Mobile Elementary Schools

Published: Tuesday, November 06, 2012, 10:09 AM

This story was written by Maurice Gandy, Press-Register Correspondent.

[MOBILE, Alabama](#) – “If children start out behind in school, they are going to stay behind — sometimes for the duration,” said Judy Graham, program committee chairwoman for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Mobile.

“Children who get help in the program and start out on the right foot in school are much less likely to drop out at some point,” noted Graham, who is an Alabama Power office manager.

The HIPPY Mobile program offers home-based, early childhood education for children ages 3 to 5. Working through parent educators, the program guides parents, offering tips to become their child’s first teacher, according to program literature.

HIPPY is working with and recruiting from four Mobile County elementary schools, whose teachers who refer students through testing and observation: John Will, Fonde, Collins Road and Leinkauf. The teachers send program applications home with designated students and HIPPY follows up from there, said Grace Reese, coordinator of the local program.

HIPPY is an initiative of the Mobile Education Foundation, which is dedicated to lowering school dropout rates.

Schools are served based on Alabama and federal program data determination of which schools need help the most, given limited HIPPY funds, Reese added.

The qualified, committed parent who signs up for HIPPY is provided at no cost a professionally-developed, 300-lesson, 30-week curriculum, with resources and storybooks designed to strengthen the child’s cognitive and early literacy skills, plus social/emotional and physical development tips, according to program literature.

Parent educators/mentors deliver the educational materials during weekly one-hour visits. The educators mentor the parents, discuss parenting concerns and often refer them to needed community resources outside the program. The parent does the actual teaching (and bonding) with her child in daily 15-20 minute sessions, said Reese.

Parent educators/mentors are enthusiastic about doing their job in the home-based environment.



Judy Graham of Alabama Power (left), program committee chairwoman for HIPPY Mobile, and Grace Reese, educator and program coordinator for HIPPY Mobile, pose in front of a colorful sign advertising the program. (Maurice Gandy / Press-Register Correspondent)



Three generations of the Brown family have taken part in the HIPPY program. From left are Krystle Brown, parent participant and daughter of Andria Darlene Brown; Ke'Viasz Malone, 5, Krystle Brown's son and current child participant; Andria Darlene Brown, former grandparent participant and current parent educator/mentor; and Kurstin West, Andria Darlene Brown's granddaughter and a former child participant. (Maurice Gandy / Press-Register Correspondent)

"I love kids and parents. Working with this age group gives me a great opportunity to start them ahead in school, instead of behind," said Deborah Franklin.

Both of her children came through the program, with her 5-year-old now completing two years, said Jani Jackson, a five-year give-back parent and educator.

"The bonds I have formed with the parents and kids have been special," said Andria Darlene Brown, who has been with the program since 2000. She has been involved both as an educator/mentor and a care-giving grandparent enrolled in the program.

That grandchild, Kurstin West, is now 17 and an honors program senior at Vigor High School, planning for college. "Being a child in the program improved my skills," she said. "The educator came to the house with books and helped me with reading, pronunciation, and proper grammar. My grandmother and I did a lot of reading."

Brown has a second grandchild, Ke'Viasz Malone, 5, a student at Chickasaw Elementary, as a program "access child," with whom she practices techniques and charts outcomes. His mother, her daughter, Krystle Brown, is enrolled as a parent participant.

"HIPPY differs from some other early childhood programs in that it goes into the home," Graham noted. "There is a different comfort level for parent and child. It is less intimidating to be one-on-one in their environment without comparison to others."

Scheduling is challenging for busy parents, but the parent educator tries to be available Monday through Sunday, morning through evening, said Reese. The parent is asked to commit to all required sessions for the full 30 weeks, including when makeup is needed.

Once a month, as part of parental commitment, the parents attend a parent group meeting with other program parents, HIPPY staff and volunteers, Reese said.

HIPPY was established in the U.S. in 1984 (after being developed in 1969 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel). There are currently 172 programs in 30 states, Washington, D.C. and Guam. The program came to Montgomery in 1993 and Mobile and Sylacauga in 1998. Currently there are 33 programs across Alabama, Reese said.

By 2011, HIPPY Mobile had served more than 1,650 children and families. There are presently only 100 children in program because of limited funding, according to Graham. "We could serve a lot more children in the program, but more money is needed to fund the \$1,400 per child cost. The long-term benefits for high school graduation rates (the current Mobile County annual rate is about 65 percent www.alavoices.org) and an educated workforce are tremendous."

HIPPY has been highlighted as one of the model programs in the U.S. for strengthening America's families through effective programs for the prevention of delinquency (see the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website, www.strengtheningfamilies.org/).

"The kids love this personal time bonding with mom and will push her to stay in the program," Reese said. A progress portfolio is kept and, at a graduation ceremony in the Mobile office, parents see their accomplishment as in-home teachers. In addition, the program will have a Christmas party this year. HIPPY Mobile also sponsors health screenings, drug education, and a health care fun day in partnership with Mobile Infirmary and the Mitchell Cancer Institute, Reese added.

The computers at the downtown Mobile headquarters are available for parent/child use. Parents are offered help with employment resumes, Reese said.

Parent involvement in literacy instruction across the country has a positive impact on children's reading acquisition equivalent to a 10-point score gain on literacy tests. In addition, 43 percent of adults were employed after participating in family literacy programs, compared with 14 percent prior to enrolling (Family Strengthening Policy Center, www.nasassembly.org/).

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