



UNT - Center
for Parent
Education



Texas HIPPY 2005-2006 Evaluation Report

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) is an international home-based literacy program with a 19-year record in the state of Texas. The 2005-2006 impact study encompassed parent involvement and the child's readiness for Kindergarten.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Was there an increase in parental involvement in the education of preschool children?

Did parents engage in relevant and appropriate group activities and service experience in the community?

Do HIPPY children enter Kindergarten "ready to learn"?

PURPOSE

The purpose of this research brief is to provide evidence that HIPPY was a positive influence in preschool children's readiness for Kindergarten and their parents' involvement in school and the community.

The 2005-2006 study compared involvement of parents of HIPPY kindergarten children and their parents at the beginning and end of their first year in the HIPPY Program. The study also surveyed the Kindergarten teachers of HIPPY children to determine the effects of the HIPPY program on school readiness.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT INTERVIEW 2005-2006

Method

In the Fall of 2005, HIPPY Home Visitors administered the Parent Involvement Interview (2-pages, 19 items) to first-year HIPPY parents prior to week 2 of the 30 weeks of HIPPY instruction. The same assessment was administered again at the completion of the school year. The Parent Involvement Interview divides questions into four sections: a) in-home literacy, b) parent's interactions with school staff, c) parent's school involvement, and d) parent's civic involvement. 814 HIPPY first-year parents participated in the pretest. Of those, 584 parents also participated in the posttest.

Results

Was there an increase in parental involvement in the education of preschool children?

- 75.3% of the HIPPY parents increased the amount of time spent engaging their children in literacy activities at home.
- 35.6% of HIPPY parents had more frequent contact with personnel at the children's school.
- 64.7% of HIPPY parents increased their level of parent involvement with their children's school.
- 82.9% of HIPPY parents were reported by their child's Kindergarten teacher as equally or more involved than the parents of other children in their class.

- Results from one-tailed, paired sample t-tests indicate a significant increase, at the .001 level, in mean scores from pre to post administration on all four sections of the Parent Involvement Interview.

Did parents engage in relevant and appropriate group activities and service experience in the community?

- 21.9% of HIPPY parents increased their involvement in their community.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER SURVEY 2005-2006

Benchmark

To identify school readiness expectations of the general population of Kindergarten children in Texas, 52 Kindergarten teachers across the state reviewed the Kindergarten Teacher Survey and identified the number of questions a child in their classroom would have to be rated as average or above to be considered "ready for school". Seventy Kindergarten teachers from four school districts in North, West and Central Texas representing rural, urban, and suburban communities were asked to participate. Results the Kindergarten Teacher Survey were then compared to this benchmark. As a result we are able to determine with more statistical power, the number of HIPPY students who enter Kindergarten "ready for school".

Method

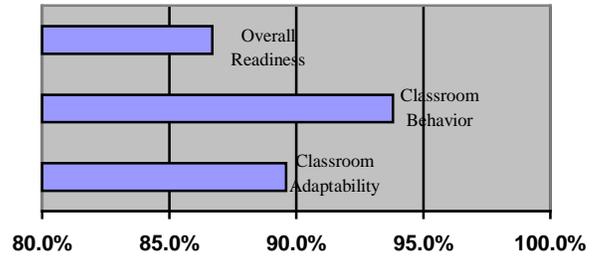
In the Spring of 2006, the Kindergarten Teacher Survey (2 page, 20 questions) was mailed to the Kindergarten teachers of HIPPY students. The survey consists of three sections: Classroom Adaptability, Classroom Behavior, and Parental Involvement. Teachers are not aware of the student's HIPPY involvement and were asked to rate the student as "below average", "average", or "above average" compared to other children in her class. Of the 414 surveys mailed, 211 were returned completed.

Results

Do HIPPY children enter Kindergarten "ready to learn"?

- 94.4% of HIPPY children were reported as "average" or "above average" in classroom adaptability by their Kindergarten teachers.
- 95.7% of HIPPY children were reported as "average" or "above average" in classroom behavior by their Kindergarten teachers.
- According to Benchmark results, 86.7% of HIPPY children were reported as "ready for kindergarten".

School Readiness Benchmark - Texas



ABOUT TEXAS HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home based parent involvement program designed to help parents provide educational enrichment for their preschool children. HIPPY Programs served over 1,800 families in 2005-2006 in eight Texas Communities:

- Austin** ♡ **Dallas** ♡ **Fort Bend** ♡ **Fort Worth**
Grand Prairie ♡ **Houston**
Irving ♡ **Richardson** ♡ **Snyder**

In 2006-2007 HIPPY will be introduced into the Texas communities of Laredo.

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