



Texas HIPPY 2013-2014 Evaluation Report

Highlights

- Significant improvement in school readiness scores
- Family Protective Factors improve for HIPPY families from the beginning to the end of the program year.
- Increases in frequency of parent involvement home activities, including reading and arts and crafts.

For More Information

Please Contact:

Carla-Marie Mowell, Director
Texas HIPPY Center, University
of North Texas (UNT)
Tel 940-565-2269
hippy@unt.edu
<http://www.unt.edu/hippy>

Report Prepared By:

Dana Booker &
Amber McEnturff

Evaluation Coordinators

University of North Texas
Tel 940-369-7246



Overview

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 ages 3, 4, and 5. HIPPY programs served families in 2013-2014 in 10 Texas communities: Amarillo, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Irving, Jacksonville, Longview, Odessa, Richardson, and Rio Grande Valley. This research brief reflects evaluation data for all HIPPY sites where HIPPY families were enrolled in the curriculum.

Improved School Readiness

In the 2013-2014 program year, the Bracken School Readiness Assessment –Third Edition (BSRA-3) was administered to all HIPPY children at the beginning and end of their first year in the program. The BSRA-3 is used to assess a child’s “readiness for school”, including 85 foundational academic concepts in the categories of Colors, Letters, Numbers/ Counting, Sizes/Comparisons, and Shapes. 954 HIPPY children in Texas completed *both* the pre-test and the post-test. Of these, there were 494 HIPPY 3’s, 360 HIPPY 4’s, and 100 HIPPY 5’s.

Do HIPPY children have improved school readiness?

HIPPY 3’s, 4’s, and 5’s have improved school readiness pre-test to post-test in each of the 5 categories tested. All of these gains were statistically significant, except for the Colors, Letters and Numbers categories for HIPPY 5’s, who had notable gains in the number of perfect scores for these areas from the beginning and end of the program year.

What percentage of HIPPY children are classified as “ready for school”?

The percentage of HIPPY 3’s and 4’s classified as “ready for school” increases significantly between the pre-test and post-test!

A greater percentage of HIPPY 5’s are also “ready for school”. This increase is smaller for HIPPY 5’s because a greater percentage (73%) start the year as “ready for school”.

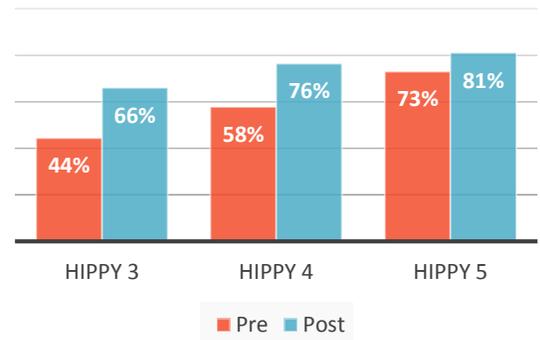


Figure 1. Percentage of HIPPY children “ready for school” before and after one program year.

Identified Children in Need of Referrals

The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) is used to monitor and screen for developmental delays in children each year they participate in the program. There were two ASQ questionnaires used, the ASQ-3 which screens for mental and physical delays in 5 developmental areas and the ASQ-SE which screens for social and emotional delays. Of the 812 (average) HIPPY children screened with the ASQ-3, 230 needed to be monitored or referred. And 109 out of 622 children screened with the ASQ-SE needed to be monitored or referred.

Increased Family Protective Factors

The effects of the HIPPY program impacts families by reducing risk for child maltreatment. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Protective Factors Survey (PFS) was delivered to **first-time HIPPY parents/caregivers** at the beginning and end of the program year. The survey consists of 5 sections: Family Functioning/Resiliency, Social Emotional Support, Concrete Support, Nurturing and Attachment, and Knowledge of Parenting/Child Development. A total of 745 first-time HIPPY parents completed *both* pre-test and post-test.

Do HIPPY parents report an increase in their protective factors by the end of the program year?

- ✓ HIPPY parents reported to have more family protective factors from the beginning of the program year to the end of the program year. While there were **gains for four of the five sections of the PFS**, the specific protective factors that had statistically significant increases included: Family Functioning/Resiliency, Social Emotional Support, Concrete Support, Nurturing and Attachment, and Knowledge of Parenting/Child Development.

Do HIPPY parents report an increase in nurturing behaviors?

- ✓ At the end of the program year, **81.5%** of HIPPY caregivers were more confident in helping their child learn when compared to **76.5%** of HIPPY caregivers at the beginning of the program year.
- ✓ **89.4%** of HIPPY parents reported “frequently”, “very frequently”, and “always” praising their child at the end of the program year compared to **74%** at the beginning of the program year.

Highly Involved Parents

In the 2013-2014 program year, HIPPY Home Instructors administered the Parent Involvement Interview (PII) to first-time HIPPY parents at the beginning and end of the program year. The PII assesses activities and attitudes toward parent involvement in their children’s education. Texas had 737 parents who completed *both* the pre-test and the post-test.

Increased Home Literacy

- ✓ Average number of books available to the HIPPY child **increased from 23 to 36 books**.
- ✓ Average number of minutes spent **reading to the child per day increased from 17 to 23 minutes**.
- ✓ Percentage of parents reported **reading to their child at least 3 or more times per week increased from 49.6% to 76.5%**.
- ✓ Percentage of parents **incorporating enrichment activities in reading**, such as “stop reading and ask child to tell you what is in a picture” **increased from 83% to 94%** from the pre-test to post-test.

More Frequent Home-Based Educational Activities

Involvement in Home-Based Activities was calculated as the number of activities a parent/family member did with their child in the home during the last week, such as “told him/her a story”, and, “taught him/her letters, words, or numbers”. At the pre-test, **62.6%** reported doing at least 5 of the 7 educational activities in the last week. At the post-test, **81.4%** of parents had done at least 5 activities in the last week.