



April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Play & Learn Group 10 am—12 pm Color: Blue	2	3	4
HIPPY Wk #24						
5	6	7	8 Play & Learn Group 10 am—12 pm Book: Counting	9	10  <i>Home visitor, Kahi Usita's last day before starting maternity leave</i>	11
HIPPY Wk #25						
12 Easter 	13	14	15 Play & Learn Group 10 am—12 pm Shape: Triangle	16	17	18
HIPPY Wk #26	Get Ready to Read Age 4 Post-test & HIPPY Satisfaction Questionnaires					
19	20	21	22 Play & Learn Group 10 am—12 pm Letter: E	23	24	25
HIPPY Wk #27						
26	27	28	29 Play & Learn Group 10 am—12 pm 2nd Annual 'Bikes & Trikes' Tour de Kona*	30	* Bring your bikes, trikes, big wheels, scooters and anything else you can ride on to the park for this fun event!	
HIPPY Wk #28						



HIPPY TIMES

April 2009

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
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Coordinator's Comments

HIPPY achieves *Stellar Status*

The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) achieved *Stellar Program* status, one component HIPPY USA's program accreditation, for the 2007-2008 program year. This status recognizes HIPPY sites that demonstrate the high quality programming known to result in the greatest, positive impact for children and families.

Our HIPPY site was also visited by Gayle Hart, HIPPY USA trainer/reviewer from Arkansas and she commended the "wonderful service that is provided to children, parents and community!" She stated that it's "rewarding to observe the improvements made based on previous recommendations". Gayle also recognized that our HIPPY program "has many admirable components, not the least is the phenomenal number of parent volunteer hours given to the community in addition to the member service".

Congratulations and mahalo to all of our HIPPY families and staff for a *stellar* performance in service to children!

HIPPY Play & Learn Group

**Old Airport Park
Na Kamalei Playground
Wednesdays, 10:00 am –12:00 pm**

Schedule

10:00 am Center Play
10:30 am Role Play (Ages 3,4,5)
11:15 am Craft / Story Time / Guest

Community Events



Family Fun Day

**Saturday, April 18th
10 am—1 pm
Kealakehe High School
Free event for families!!
Games, Crafts, Food, Info Booths
and Entertainment**

Project Compassion at Denny's

**Sunday, April 19th
Anytime between 4 pm—8 pm
Denny's will donate
20% of your bill and ALL TIPS to
Family Support Services of West Hawaii.
Your very own HIPPY home visitors
will be serving dinner!**



Preschool Open Doors
Preschool Tuition Assistance

Applications are now available. If you would like an application, please contact your home visitor.
Deadline to apply: April 30th



HIPPY is a program of Family Support Services of West Hawaii



Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Month

Every child deserves a safe and nurturing home free from abuse and neglect. Recent research shows that abuse and neglect to children from birth to age five, hinder brain development and increase aggressive behavior (Families and Work Institute). Across the nation, efforts to bring awareness to this growing problem are taking place throughout the month of April.

Here are some things that you can do:

(Suggestions from the Child Welfare League of America)

- **Volunteer your time.** Get involved with other parents in your community. Help vulnerable children and their families. Start a playgroup.
- **Discipline your children thoughtfully.** Never discipline your child when you are upset. Give yourself time to calm down.
- **Remember that discipline is a way to teach your child.**
- **Use privileges to encourage** good behavior and time-outs to help your child regain control.
- **Examine your behavior.** Abuse is not just physical. Both words and actions can inflict deep, lasting wounds.
- **Be a nurturing parent.** Use your actions to show children and other adults that conflicts can be settled without hitting or yelling.
- **Educate yourself and others.** Simple support for children and parents can be the best way to prevent child abuse.
- **After-school activities, parent education classes, mentoring programs, and respite care** are some of the many ways to keep children safe from harm. Be a voice in support of these efforts in your community.
- **Teach children their rights.** When children are taught they are special and have the right to be safe, they are less likely to think abuse is their fault, and more likely to report an offender.
- **Support prevention programs.** Too often, intervention occurs only after abuse is reported.
- **Report abuse.** If you witness a child being harmed or see evidence of abuse, or if a child tells you about abuse, make a report to your state's child protective services department or local police.
- **Invest in Kids.** Encourage leaders in the community to be supportive of children and families. Ask employers to provide family-friendly work environments. Ask your local and national lawmakers to support legislation to better protect our children and to improve their lives

Reading Is Fundamental

Read and Win a Disney Vacation!

For a second year, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) and US Airways are working together to help children nationwide discover the joy of reading. Starting April, adults are invited to join the 2009 Read with Kids Challenge and help collectively log five million minutes spent reading with kids. You'll have the chance of winning a family vacation to the Walt Disney World Resort® and more great prizes. Get on board! Visit www.RIF.org/readwithkids today or talk to your HIPPY Home Visitor for more exciting information!



Recruitment Time!

HIPPY is now recruiting families for the 2009-2010 program year which begins on October 1st, 2009. Refer a new family and you will be entered into a drawing for free books. Talk to your home visitor for more information.

Turn Off the TV Week April 20th—26th



During this week, families are encouraged to eliminate or reduce the amount of 'screen time' and increase family time. Screen time can be t.v. viewing, computer surfing, and video games. Use this week to reconnect with your children and spend some quality time with out the 'boob tube.'

Some facts:

- *The American Academy of Pediatrics urges parents to avoid television and other electronic media for children two years of age and under.--AAP statement, August 2, 1999
- *In a study of preschoolers (ages 1-4), a child's risk of being overweight increased by six percent for every hour of television watched per day. If that child had a TV in his or her bedroom, the odds of being overweight jumped an additional thirty-one percent for every hour watched. Preschool children with TVs in their bedroom watched an additional 4.8 hours of TV or videos every week.--Dennison, et.al. 2002

Community Resources

- **Med-Quest**
327-4970
Health insurance for low-income families
- **Salvation Army, Emergency Services**
935-1277 (island-wide)
Emergency assistance, including food, shelter and clothing to families without resources
- **W.I.C.**
322-4888
Food supplement program for families with children up to five years old
- **The Neighborhood Place of Kona**
331-8777
Information and referrals
- **The Food Basket**
935-3050
Food pantries and free meal schedules
- **Shelter/Crisis Lines for Family Violence**
322-7233 (24 hours)



Play & Learn Group: March

Families celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. Celebrity readers, Cat in the Hat and Librarian Mara Tepper from the Kealakekua library made the event extra special. (Even the Grinch made an appearance!)

HIPPY families attended the Kindergarten Information Fair presented by Consuelo Cortes. Children read stories and ate snacks as parents had their questions answered about successfully transitioning into school.

