HIPPY
Serving the families of HISD
HIPPY Data
Consistently year after year students whose parents participated in the HIPPY program outperformed all HISD kindergarten and first-grade students in standardized testing.

After participating in the program in the 2009 – 2010 school year:
- The percentage of parents who reported reading to their child more than once per week increased from 69.0 percent to 95.3 percent.
- 68.8 percent reported attending PTA or PTO meetings.
- 91.7 percent reported that they had attended parent-teacher conferences.


As a result of the participation in the program during the 2011 – 2012 school year, 91.1 percent of parents reported attending some form of special event at their child’s school, and 89.7 percent attended parent-teacher conferences.

How does HIPPY work?
HIPPY lessons are delivered by Home Instructors who are active parents from the community. These instructors are trained to cover a highly structured, 30-week curriculum in English or Spanish in the parent's home.

Home Instructors:
- Visit homes of HIPPY parents once a week for 30 weeks
- Provide parents with educational materials
- Review and role-play with parents
- Provide encouragement and support
- Teach parenting skills
- Organize group sessions for HIPPY parents and children to meet and share ideas and experiences

HIPPY Results
Research has revealed these specific benefits of the HIPPY program:
- The social development and academic achievement of the children
- Empowerment and development of parents
- Employment and education of home visitors
- Engagement of families in their communities
- An overall improvement in health and well-being of participating families

How to get started
To find out whether your child qualifies for the HIPPY program, contact your neighborhood elementary school or the HISD Family and Community Engagement Department at 713-967-5298.
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a school readiness program that helps parents prepare their preschool child for academic success. HIPPY is a home-based, family-focused program that HISD provides for parents of three-, four-, and five-year-old children in English and Spanish, free of charge. HIPPY empowers parents to teach their children at home with fun and easy activities. HIPPY children start elementary school ready to learn and prepared to excel.

What happens in a typical HIPPY lesson?
HIPPY lessons last 60 minutes once a week and feature a wide variety of activities for parent and child, such as:
- Reading stories together and answering questions about the stories
- Counting and grouping
- Learning sounds
- Increasing vocabulary
- Identifying opposites

What do the parents gain?
- The satisfaction of teaching their children and watching them flourish
- An enhanced sense of their own abilities
- The joy of learning with their children
- The support and help of trained para-professionals
- A bridge to agencies and organizations that can help with other concerns
- The opportunity to build a community with other HIPPY parents

Who can apply?
Families living within the Houston Independent School District who have a three-, four-, or five-year-old child may apply. Currently, HIPPY operates in numerous schools throughout HISD.

How much does it cost?
There is no cost to the child’s family or HISD schools. HIPPY is sustained by Title I funding and private grants.