



Annual Report 2018

## Celebrating HIPPY Oakville's Friends

Your support has made another year of learning and growth possible



Thank you for your vital role in our story.  
We could not do this without you....

“Encourage, lift and strengthen one another” Deborah Day

HIPPY Oakville has been the fortunate recipient of encouragement, lift and strength!

Progress is seldom made in giant leaps; rather it is the result of many small steps and many, many timely decisions. And sometimes it is merely the act of putting one foot in front of the other to keep going! Underpinning progress is the belief that it can be done if you are fortunate enough to have the support of believers – the early adopters.

HIPPY Oakville follows that trajectory!

As we carried out our environmental scan to assure ourselves that HIPPY Oakville’s work would be both unique and useful, our community had difficulty visualizing what our services would accomplish. Home Visiting was a new concept in 2006; its value had not been recognized.

We started as a very small agency with 6 children in the fall of 2007 and the kind support of our early adopters, Peter and Joanne Kenny, Michelle Knoll and the Halton Region. Later, we were blessed with the generous support of The United Way, the Trillium Foundation, fundholders at the Oakville Community Foundation and the loyal support, input and kindness of many loyal community members.

We served 120 children this year whose families were of 36 nationalities and who speak 22 languages. Our growth has encompassed our expansion into neighbouring Milton and Burlington. Our numbers continue to grow as our Region expands and welcomes new families. Halton’s census division growth is the second largest in Ontario.

Because of you, the Friends of HIPPY Oakville, we can celebrate the growth and development of the families that have been served and demonstrate the truth in the saying, “Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story”. Thank you for being those caring adults.

Thank you too, for trusting in the program and enabling us to serve; you have truly encouraged, lifted and strengthened us. HIPPY’s progress is largely because of you!



June Cockwell



***Behold the turtle. He makes progress only  
when he sticks his neck out.  
James Bryant Conant***



Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters  
**HIPPY** is an international, research-based early literacy program offered in 8 countries.

## Vision

All children, when entering Kindergarten, possess the tools for success.

## Mission

HIPPY Oakville provides vulnerable families with knowledge, materials and instruction to prepare their preschool children for success in school and in life.

- HIPPY Home Visitors pay weekly visits to Mothers in their own homes and use role play to teach the week's activities, which are based on children's literature
- Mothers teach their children the 5 days of activities; the pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-math skills they need for success in Kindergarten and beyond
- Bi-weekly Group Meetings offer speakers and a peer group for parents. Children experience a preschool classroom and learn the social skills of learning
- HIPPY is a 30 week program which has a lifetime impact.



*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today*  
**Malcolm X.**

## Confirmation of the HIPPY Program's methodology.....



A recent review of research-to-practice briefs by the Global Family Research Project focused on early literacy. Early literacy skills start to develop at birth and at first are nurtured by the family. The engagement of the family plays a pivotal role in the development of strong pathways that lead to children's' overall healthy development, their school readiness, graduation and subsequent success.

The HIPPY program is specifically mentioned in this review. Research showed that HIPPY parents become more engaged in reading, talking and working with their children and that children's school-readiness skills improve.

The review outlined several practices that effectively promote early literacy:

1. Families create literacy-friendly home environments – the number of books in the home (owned or borrowed) strongly relate to a child's reading ability. By regularly reading storybooks and making reading fun and enjoyable and by engaging in parent-child literacy activities, parents foster the enjoyment and love of literacy.
2. Families have ongoing and engaging conversations with their children. The number of words heard are important, but rich vocabulary, complex ideas and discussing past and future events are now seen as possibly being even more important.
3. Families have high expectations of their children and their learning. Parents' sense of responsibility for their children's education helps to form their expectations. As Lady Bird Johnson wrote, "children are likely to live up to what you believe in them."
4. Families use their home language. The four most popular languages in Halton after English, are Urdu, Arabic, Spanish and Mandarin. These languages are spoken by our Home Visitors who are thus able to add another dimension to their work with the Mothers.
5. Families communicate with their children's teachers. One of the HIPPY program's specific goals is to equip parents to be their children's advocates and to play an active role in their learning.

The HIPPY program encompasses all of these practices and our HIPPY Home Visitors are able to reinforce them during their home visits and at our bi-weekly Group Meetings.

*The youth is our hope of our future*  
*Jose Rizal*

The outcomes of HIPPY Oakville's HIPPY Mothers are surveyed each year.  
The data is compiled and reported by HIPPY Canada.

We worked with Mothers from 36 countries who collectively speak 22 languages.  
2% of HIPPY Oakville families are refugees and 94% are newcomers.

94% of Mothers have established a routine of engaging with their children on HIPPY's educational activities

82% of Mothers read to their children four days a week or more

80% of Mothers have the skills and capacity to use the HIPPY materials to teach their children

90% of Mothers engage with their children with additional learning materials (beyond those taught in the HIPPY program)



87% of Mothers are connected to the formal public services required to ensure the healthy development of children and families in the Canadian context

83% of Mothers create informal social support networks with other Mothers in similar situations with whom they can share their experiences and knowledge

47% of Mothers regularly engaged with other Mothers or provided other Mothers with support. Home Visitors provided information about community resources to Mothers 357 times this year

***Even though the future seems far away, it is actually beginning right now  
Mattie Stepanek***

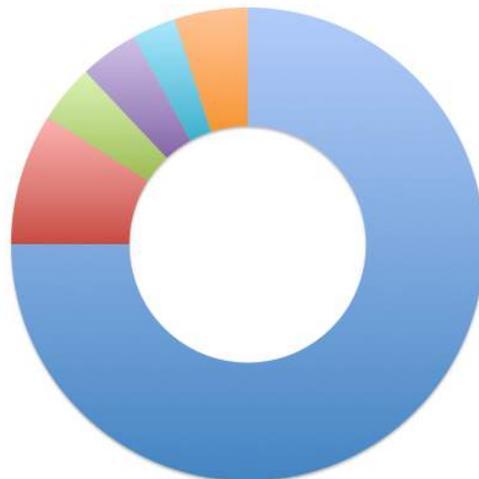
## Feedback from HIPPY Oakville Mothers

- I find a huge difference in my daughter's personality, intellectual capability and ability to hold creative conversations. This program is perfect for our family.
- I am convinced that HIPPY played a significant role in my 3 kids' success. I am grateful we had the opportunity to be associated with HIPPY. Thank you!
- This is a great program and it keeps me up to date with the upgrades I need to do as a parent in terms of upbringing and continuous education for my child. I'm looking forward for the next year. Thanks a lot HIPPY!
- I create time and space to share and build with children. Good memories from there. Thanks for everything. HIPPY is a very helpful program for kids. My kid learnt a lot and she has become very confident. Thank you HIPPY for building confidence in my child.
- I will always treasure the great time we had in this fantastic program. We made friends; we learned a lot as parents and as a family.



Expenses for year ended July 31, 2018 - \$147,053

of which



*Education is not only a ladder of opportunity, but it is also an investment in our future*  
**Ed Markey**

**Friends of HIPPY Oakville**  
**Thank you for trusting and helping us to grow.**  
**Your interest and support have made a**  
**difference in so many lives.**

Tom and Janet Alton\*  
Amarna  
Sandra Baker  
Julie-Ann Baxter  
Susan Both  
Patrica Boutasis  
Derick Brenninkmeyer Charitable Foundation  
Alison Brindle  
Jean Brown  
June and Ian Cockwell  
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Teresa Rinaldi  
Sandra Rippin  
Anne Sanderson  
Mags Shorey\*  
Judy Shone  
Anne Smith  
Petra Samson  
Marianne and Kurt Strobele  
Nikki Taylor  
Rita Thompson  
Tina Triano  
Brian van Wyngaarden  
Pat and David Vaughan  
Ann Veale  
Richard Veale  
Peter and Eve Willis  
Antonella Wood  
Woodworkers and Crafters of Ennisclare II

*\*denotes fund held at Oakville Community Foundation*



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
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**MCRC**



***Thank you for the privilege of your generosity and support***



HIPPY Oakville Home Visitors  
celebrate our 11th year



Chester the Clown  
celebrates with us.