



# Resilience

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



“Resilience is accepting your new reality even if it is less good  
than the one you had before”

Elizabeth Edwards

# A MOST UNUSUAL YEAR

Yes, “unusual” is an understatement when summing up our year. HIPPY Halton, like every other facet of our society, was operating smoothly until the pandemic impacted our country in mid-March. We had to make a quick shift to move online immediately, moving from the critical “in person” support for families to a virtual presence. Our fortitude and our resilience has been tested beyond what any of us could have imagined; yet it’s in times like these, when the strengths of many outweigh those of a single individual.

**“She was unstoppable, not because she did not have failures or doubts,  
but because she continued on despite them”**

Beau Taplin

From March to June, HIPPY Halton delivered books and activity packages and home visits online. This change in regular programming proved to be very stressful for our HIPPY moms with the added challenges of using new technology compounded with family stress – financial worries, overcrowding, time constraints, home schooling for their other children and isolation.

HIPPY’s Home Visitors faced similar stresses - in addition to learning a variety of new platforms in order to serve families in an unprecedented way. Home Visitors had to quickly learn how to teach online while juggling their families’ needs.

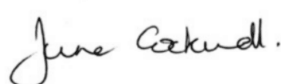
To help counteract the negative pressures during the lockdown and over the summer, HIPPY Halton posted daily additional activities and blogs on Instagram and Facebook for the community’s use and information. Our weekly blog continues and our 280+ posts continue to be very popular!

Thank you to ALL our families – whether you remained for the whole program or had to take a little break and return to complete the 30 week program. Thank you to ALL our Home Visitors - you provided a critical lifeline to the isolated and lonely mothers while you role-played the activities together. Your empathy and encouragement made a significant difference in their lives. And your smiles, support and care helped many of our families say “Yes, I can get through today”.

Together, this pandemic has demonstrated our collective resilience and determination to succeed. It gives us strength to wake up each morning, hug our children, and share with them, our enormous love and courage.



**Chair of the Board**



**Executive Director**

# THRIVING IN SCHOOL, AT HOME, & BEYOND

HIPPY Halton is a multi-cultural community of parents, their pre-school children and Home Visitors who embrace early learning through shared teaching.

We provide free, well researched, 30-week, preschool education in Oakville, Milton and Burlington for newcomers, working poor, isolated and vulnerable families. Research demonstrates that children who lag at school entry, seldom if ever catch up.

Our curriculum is based on children's literature and activity packages that support each book. Peer Home Visitors and mothers spend an hour each week role playing the activities that teach children the essential pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-math skills required for success in Kindergarten and beyond.



Mothers spend 20 minutes for each of the next 5 days teaching their own children. Their Home Visitor will check the completed work at the next visit and answer any questions and provide support and encouragement. Samples of work are saved to demonstrate the child's progress.

Home Visitors also assist in settlement challenges and teach mothers that they have a role to play in their child's education and as advocates in their local schools and communities.

Fortnightly group meetings develop parenting skills, peer groups and support for mothers and children. Appreciating others' needs and customs helps to build a community free of racism, prejudice and misunderstandings.

HIPPY children are confident and ready to learn when they enter school. Mothers build their relationships with their children, their English literacy skills and their understanding of the schools' and community's expectations.

Home Visitors are paid a Living Wage in their first job in Canada. They learn Canadian work culture, build a CV while they improve their English literacy skills.

**The HIPPY program changes lives!**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU, FRIENDS OF HIPPY HALTON



Hours of curriculum  
delivered to HIPPY moms



Hours HIPPY moms dedicated  
to teaching their children  
preschool skills



Hours set aside to train  
HIPPY Home Visitors



Hours of employment  
provided to HIPPY Home  
Visitors



Empowered mothers to  
prepare their children for  
success in school

**“You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem,  
and smarter than you think.”**

A.A. Milne

Mothers attending Group meetings in Milton and Oakville had 3 sessions of Life Coaching. They also learned about parenting, Crime Stoppers, healthy eating, early literacy, and positive discipline.

HIPPY Mothers and Home Visitors were resilient and were able to adapt to COVID restrictions in March by working online for the rest of our year...

# WHAT HIPPY HALTON MOTHERS SAY

"HIPPY has helped my daughters improve many skills that have helped them to work better at school."

"With the different activities, such as reading and writing my daughter was able to improve in many aspects. And my little one was able to learn the essential skills to prepare for kindergarten."

"HIPPY is doing a wonderful job by continuing its delivery of curriculum virtually, I appreciate the efforts HIPPY is taking in ensuring the program/ course isn't disrupted."

"I really appreciate the efforts that HIPPY has taken this year where situations have been very difficult, especially to manage kids at this time of crisis."

"HIPPY used to help us a lot but during the pandemic, it became a need for us. Since we were always on the hunt for reading material and activities."

"Also, her teacher went above and beyond to come to the doorstep to drop books and crafts, at the time when everyone was even scared to go out to do groceries."

"HIPPY has been a huge help in my life and I'm thankful for it all."

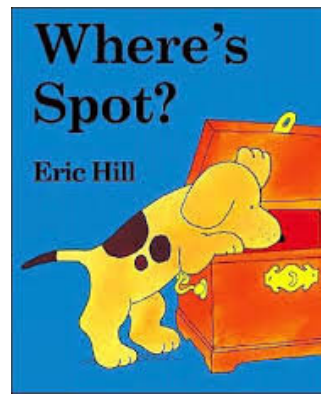
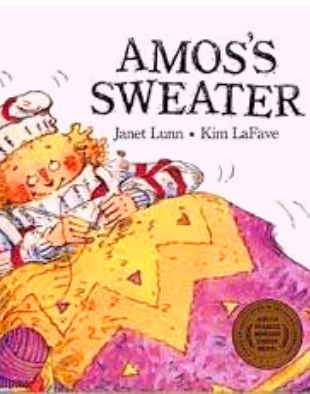


## HOW HAS YOUR SUPPORT HELPED?

HIPPY Halton is a registered charity and is audited each year. Our full financial statements are available on the CRA website. HIPPY is compliant with its policy to have resources to cover its commitment of two years of program costs for each child enrolled.

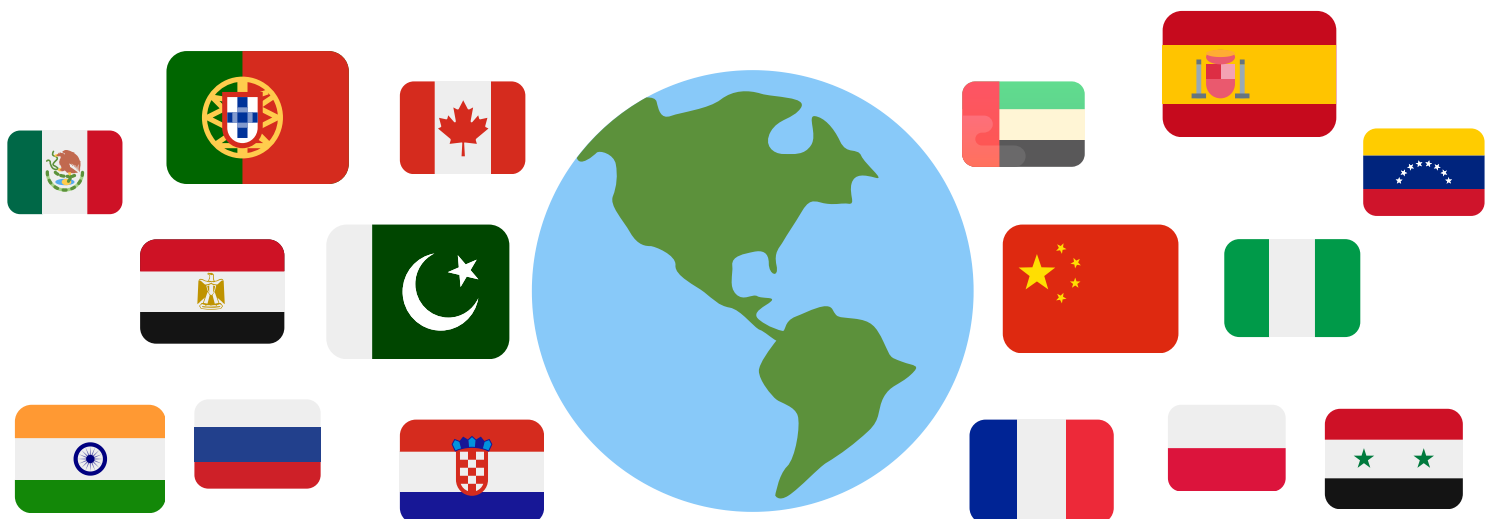
Our most recent audit revealed that we spent 97 cents of every dollar on direct program costs: salaries and training for Home Visitors curriculum materials, children's picture books, group meetings and the Celebrations of Learning.

The remaining 3 cents of every dollar were spent on costs such as bookkeeping, audit fees and bank charges.



## DID YOU KNOW?

HIPPY Halton serves families from 29 countries around the world and HIPPY Home Visitors speak 9 different languages.



# FRIENDS OF HIPPY HALTON

We are grateful for your generosity and thank you for your friendship and support. We could not run our programme without you!



**"If the world had more people like you it would be a better place.  
You do make a difference."**

Catherine Pulsifer

Tom and Janet Alton\*  
Susan Both  
Jean Brown  
Kathryn Bykerk  
Earl and Claude Cherniak  
June and Ian Cockwell  
Carole Crotty  
Isobel Culliton  
Carolyn Dillion  
Anneke Feberwee  
Julie Fluit  
Janet and Larry Haslett-Theall  
Jimin Hong  
Tracie Hughes  
Jassy Hundal  
Gabrielle Hunter  
Jenna Hung  
Michell Knoll  
Francine Landry  
Fran and Azniv Lochan Fund\*  
Lesley Mansfield  
Yolaine and Pierre Matteau  
Britta Martini-Miles

Jacqueline Newton  
Brad Park  
Teresa Rinaldi  
Petra Samson  
Anne Sanderson  
Mags Shorey\*  
Anne Smith  
Sandra Smith  
Marianne and Kurt Strobele  
Lily Sulug  
Nikki Taylor  
Deirdre Thomas  
Tina Triano  
Ann Veale  
Richard Veale  
Peter and Eve Willis  
Antonella Wood  
Woodworkers and Crafters of  
Ennisclare II  
Youth in Recreation Fund\*

\*Denotes fund held at Oakville  
Community Foundation



Those who wish to sing, always find a song.”

Swedish Proverb

