



Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngers (HIPPY) Fact Sheet

Wunan is proud to be delivering HIPPY in partnership with Wyndham Early Learning Centre (WELA) and Pindan Early Learning Program in Kununurra.

What is the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters?

HIPPY is a two-year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that works with parents of young children. Parents are empowered and supported to guide their preschool-age children's early learning experiences and help their children realise success by beginning school ready to learn. The two year program targets families who need support to increase confidence in their own skills and ability to have a positive effect on their child's learning.

How does the program work?

Parents participating in HIPPY with their child have the opportunity to be employed and trained as HIPPY home tutors. Home tutors visit parents on a regular basis, providing support, advice, activities and educational resources. With the Brotherhood's encouragement, they often take up a leadership role in their own communities.

Children are enrolled in the program the year before they begin school. The first year (HIPPY Age 4) aims to provide children with exposure to fun, stimulating and varied learning experiences, and the opportunity to learn new concepts and consolidate emerging skills. It also encourages parents to generalise the activities and skills learnt in everyday settings. The second year (HIPPY Age 5) builds on the HIPPY Age 4 materials by introducing more information about children's learning and development for the parent. The HIPPY Age 5 materials also build on and extend the generalisation activities that HIPPY families have been doing together throughout the first year of the program.

What benefits does the program deliver?

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters aims to support children and their families during the crucial early years. HIPPY's attention to the interactions between children and their parents and its emphasis on supporting early literacy development is consistent with key policy initiatives across Australia and reflects contemporary understanding of the crucial role of parents in their child's learning.

HIPPY seeks to build a sense of belonging for families and children and actively equip parents to support their children and other parents.

Benefits for children

- Encourages a love of learning
- Maximizes chances of enjoyment and doing well at school
- Promotes language and listening skills and develops concentration
- Builds self-esteem and confidence in learning
- Improves communication between parents and children

Benefits for families

- Helps create a learning environment at home
- Increases parents' knowledge of child development and the way children learn
- Provides parents with opportunities to enjoy positive time with their children
- Enables parents to be actively involved in their children's education
- Increases self-confidence of parents
- Has an overall positive impact on family relationships
- Creates employment and training opportunities

How do parents receive assistance through the program?

Parents and families are encouraged and empowered to read, play with and undertake educational activities with their child for around 15 minutes per day, five days per week, over the two years. This encouragement is provided through a trained Home Tutor. Each tutor works with 10 to 15 families, in a part-time paid position for around 15 to 18 hours per week. The tutor undertakes the program with parents in their homes, and participates in the training and parent group gatherings. Parents also attend regular parent group gatherings and social activities.

HIPPY **East Kimberley** is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters.