

HIPPY Home Visitors Gain from New Partnership with Council for Professional Recognition

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Aug. 25, 2014 — [Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters USA \(HIPPY USA\)](#) and the [Council for Professional Recognition](#) recently announced a new partnership that enables hundreds of home visitors to pursue new professional development opportunities. Both HIPPY and the Council are encouraging more HIPPY home visitors to earn their [Child Development Associate \(CDA\) Credential™](#), the only nationally-recognized, portable, reciprocal and competency-based credential of its kind.

HIPPY, an evidence-based initiative, involves well-trained home visitors who deliver 30 weeks of high-quality school readiness curriculum activities and books to parents who qualify based on income requirements. The parents then work every day on the lessons with their three-, four- and five-year-old children.

HIPPY currently serves more 15,000 families at no cost across 22 states and D.C. Many parents who receive HIPPY visits go on to become HIPPY home visitors and seek to increase their educational credentials and employment opportunities.

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early care and education of children ages birth to five-years-old. The Council's unique CDA teacher credentialing program uses a specific set of time-tested, research-based tools to determine early childhood teacher competency, based on multiple sources of evidence.

The new partnership, Leading to Advanced Educational Pathways, means the 120 hours of professional education provided to the home visitors by HIPPY will be closely evaluated for consideration when they apply to be CDA Professional Development Specialists or Home Visitor Representatives.

“This is a great opportunity for HIPPY home visitors and I know many of them are eager to participate. In fact, about 200 of our home visitors are already credentialed by the Council for Professional Recognition. This is an important acknowledgment that what they learn and how they apply it during home visits is valued,” says Lia Lent, executive director, HIPPY USA.

“Our CDA credential represents the crossroad where education and knowledge meet,” says Valora Washington, Ph.D., chief executive officer, Council for Professional Recognition. “We are excited at the potential our partnership with HIPPY has in creating a more experienced, qualified and credentialed home visitor.”

More than 350,000 CDA credentials have been awarded to date, with approximately 18,000 early childhood professionals annually becoming new CDAs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has stated that HIPPY meets the rigorous criteria set for funding under the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

Twenty years of research, conducted in the U.S. and eight other countries, has shown the HIPPY model to be effective in improving school readiness, parent involvement, school attendance, classroom behavior, standardized test scores and academic performance.

Washington State Institute for Public Policy research found that every dollar invested in HIPPY yields \$1.80 in benefits.

All HIPPY programs share four core components:

- A standard developmentally appropriate school readiness curriculum;
- Role-play as method of instruction;
- Peer home visitors; and
- Home visiting as the service delivery method.

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About HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters USA programs focus on family literacy, school readiness and parent involvement. HIPPY helps parents prepare their preschool children to succeed in school. Currently, 135 HIPPY programs in 22 states and the District of Columbia serve over 15,000 families.

www.hippyusa.org

About the Council for Professional Recognition

The Council for Professional Recognition, based in Washington, D.C., promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to five-years-old. The Council works to ensure all early care and education professionals meet the developmental, emotional and educational needs of our nation's youngest children.

The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education programs—Head Start, pre-K, infant-toddler, family child care and home visitor programs. The Council administers a unique teacher credentialing process which results in the award of the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™. The program uses a specific set of time-tested, research-based tools to determine early childhood teacher competency, based on multiple sources of evidence.

www.cdacouncil.org

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