

file HIPPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 17, 1998

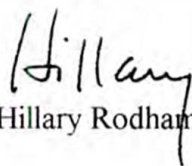
Ms. Avima Lombard
HIPPY
The NCJW Research Institute
for Innovation in Education
School of Education
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
91905, Israel

Dear Avima:

Thank you for your letter. It was very good to hear from you again and I am thrilled with your progress report on your efforts with HIPPY internationally. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to my scheduling office concerning your April visit to Washington. In the interim, I wish you the best of luck with your new direction and I am grateful for your continuing commitment to HIPPY.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

~~cc:~~ Patti Solis Doyle
Director of Scheduling



Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters

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January 14, 1998

Ms. Hillary Clinton
The White House

Dear Hillary,

It's been a long time since we have been in contact, and now I am writing in anticipation of our meeting at the celebrations for the ten-year anniversary of HIPPY USA. I would like to bring you up to date on the program's development around the world and consult with you on future plans.

As you know, HIPPY USA has grown by leaps and bounds. Thanks to both Miriam, who is an excellent director, and the Board, whose members really take their participation seriously and contribute extensively from their experience and knowledge to each issue relating to the growth and expansion of the program. The availability of funding has, of course, made all this possible, and HIPPY appears to be well established and finally accepted by the US Early Childhood establishment.

Our international efforts have produced a variety of results. In South Africa, after a few very lean years during which the programs held on simply through will-power - there certainly were no funds available - they finally have a future-oriented plan and look forward to growth and diversification. They will be part of general early childhood thrust sponsored by the new government.

We opened a model program in New Zealand about seven years ago. It was part of an experimental family service center attached to a school in a difficult suburb of Auckland. Over the years this model was adopted for experimental expansion by the government, while local communities throughout the country opted into HIPPY without the family service umbrella. There are now about 1000 families in the programs in nine different communities working with Maoris and Pacific Islanders. Funding has been from both government and private grants.

In Germany (Nuremberg and Bremen) programs work primarily with immigrant families from Turkey and returning Germans from Poland, Russia and Rumania. On the basis of the success of these programs the city of Fulda this year granted funds for a program with local German families. The Federal government in Germany does not fund local educational programs, so each program has to work hard to stay alive.

Our greatest success story has been The Netherlands, where after a short experimental period we were launched on a national scale. Very successful. So much so that the government decided to fund the writing of their own program, modelled on ours, so as to be "free" of obligations to the Hebrew University. After ten years of working together, they are now fully on their own.

There was a lovely program in Mexico for three years, funded through the department of adult education in the state of Morales, but a change in local government and economic woes have ended that.

Two new programs will start this year - in Melbourne and Singapore. Both have limited funds and will start with small numbers. Being the optimist that I am, I expect both to grow rapidly.

We continue to have annual workshops in Jerusalem in the month of June. These have been attended by interested folks from all over the world (Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, India, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Germany, The Netherlands, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Dominica, Mexico, Canada and of course the United States. Great enthusiasm is generated each year, but so far only those from the wealthy countries have succeeded in getting HIPPY going.

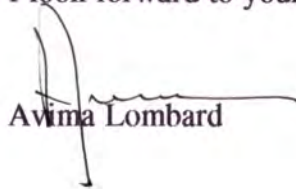
Over the past few years you have travelled around the world, observing families and children in a variety of settings, and I am sure you have a good idea of their diverse needs. It bothers me that so little is available to them physically, nutritionally, and educationally. I admire efforts to increase the women's sense of economic adequacy through encouragement of women's industries and banks, but there is all too little in the way of empowering women to provide their children with good education. I have spoken to folks at the World Bank about this, and while they like HIPPY and have invited me to speak on it in several public forums, their system whereby they only fund large programs requested by governments precludes funding for our system of encouraging the establishment of model programs and local initiatives.

JANUARY 14, 1998

My activities with HIPPY have changed recently. Having retired from teaching, and after finding an excellent younger woman to take over all that concerns the operation and expansion of our Institute Early Childhood programs in Israel, I have freed myself to concentrate on HIPPY International. The issue of finding ways to enable the poorer countries to become involved is one of my prime objectives for the next few years. I am convinced that it is needed, will work, and will have an impact. What I am looking for is ideas as to how to make it all possible.

I will be in Washington throughout the week of April 26th, and would very much like to meet with you to discuss this. Your experience and your special way of approaching social problems are bound to be of help in this matter. If the subject is of interest to you, and if you can find time for us to meet, I would be very happy.

I look forward to your response. Warm wishes to you both.


Avima Lombard

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Center City Community Corporation

For over 30 years this non-profit organization has worked to foster and implement community development programs designed to improve the quality of life for low-income residents of the District.

National Council of Jewish Women

Founded in 1893, NCJW is the oldest Jewish women's volunteer organization in the U.S.. NCJW works to improve the lives of women, children and families through education, research, community service and advocacy.

Mt. Airy Baptist Church

A pillar of the community for over 100 years, Mt. Airy's focus has always been to make the city a better place in which to live and worship. The church provides counseling services for all those in need through a variety of programs.

I, Too, Tutoring

This volunteer tutorial group works with children at the Walker Jones Elementary School. The combination of carefully chosen material and the warmth of one-to-one teaching has resulted in measurable progress on the part of the students.



Washington, DC HIPPY

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Washington, DC HIPPY



WASHINGTON, DC HIPPY

Washington, DC HIPPY started in 1995 as the result of the collaboration of four community-based organizations:

Center City Community Corporation (Four C's)
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
Mt. Airy Baptist Church
I, Too, Tutoring

The program is currently serving 60 children in the Northwest Urban Renewal Area near Union Station. HIPPY operates out of office space donated by Mt. Airy Baptist Church and is administered by the Four C's, located in Sursum Corda housing development.

BACKGROUND ON HIPPY

The Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters - known as HIPPY - is a home-based, school readiness program aimed at empowering parents as their children's first and most influential teacher.

HIPPY was developed in Israel by NCJW in 1969, and came to the U.S. in 1984. Today, there are over 100 HIPPY sites in 26 states

HIPPY focuses on the parents of three to five year-olds who have had limited access to formal education. HIPPY parents are trained by paraprofessionals from their community to prepare their children for school through weekly packets of clearly illustrated, step-by-step activities.

HIPPY is the quintessential WIN-WIN: The preschoolers "win" by having their parents teach them how to learn so that they can succeed in elementary school and beyond. The parents "win" by knowing that they are preparing their children for school, and by gaining confidence and marketable skills. And, as a result, the community "WINS."

NOTABLE QUOTES

"I have talked with many parents who have said to me, 'I knew I had to protect my child. I knew I had to put food on the table to feed my child. I knew I had to get clothes for my child, but I never thought I had anything to teach my child. Now I know I do.' I believe that's the success of the HIPPY program in D.C. and around the world." These were the words of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as she delivered the commencement speech for the 1997 graduates of the Washington, DC HIPPY program.

"There are going to be enhanced futures for all of those families, and those children are now going to be excited about learning," observed Desiree Griffin-Moore, Senior Program Officer of the Freddie Mac Foundation, at the 1997 graduation.

FUNDING

Freddie Mac Foundation provided \$150,000 during the first three years of the program.

Other generous supporters include: Cafritz Foundation, TRW, Meyer Foundation, Dreyfus Foundation, Fowler Memorial Foundation, Desan Family, Strong Foundation, England Foundation, Holy Trinity Church, NCJW and many others.