

HIPPY Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services started in Raymond Terrace & Karuah in February 2014

HIPPY Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services is open to Aboriginal families who live in Raymond Terrace & Karuah, have a child about 4 years old and who would like to:

- spend time together with their child learning and having fun
- support their child to start school confidently
- connect with other local families

To find out more about HIPPY **PSFANS** contact the HIPPY **PSFANS** Coordinator on the details below.

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The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia



Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty



Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters



HIPPY Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Home Interaction Program for Parents/carers of Aboriginal Youngsters.

What is HIPPY?

HIPPY is a two-year home-based early childhood enrichment program. HIPPY builds the confidence and skills of parents/carers to create a positive learning environment to prepare their child for school.

How old does my child need to be to start HIPPY?

Children join HIPPY in the year before they start formal schooling (usually around four years old).

How will HIPPY help me and my child?

HIPPY helps parents/carers learn many things including:

- how to be more involved in their child's learning
- understanding more about child development and the way children learn
- encouraging a love of learning in children.

HIPPY helps children by:

- preparing them for a confident start to school
- building their self-esteem and confidence in learning
- providing opportunities to enjoy time with their parents.



How does HIPPY work?

Your family at home

Parents/carers 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 two years. HIPPY is provided through a trained home tutor.

Home visits with a home tutor

The tutor visits the family fortnightly and delivers the program to parents/carers in their homes.

Parent groups

Parents/carers also attend regular group gatherings to practice new activities, listen to guest speakers and participate in fun games that they can then try at home with their children. They also meet other parents who are doing HIPPY.



Does my child need to be home for home visits or come to parent groups?

The home tutor supports the parent during home visits and parent groups. For this reason the child does not have to be at home or attend parent groups.

Will I get home visits or need to go to group meetings during school holidays?

HIPPY does not run over school holidays, unless parents require extra support.



Who are the home tutors?

Home tutors are parents/carers in the HIPPY program who are doing the activities at home with their own children at the same time as being employed to help other HIPPY families.

Can I be a home tutor?

If you are interested in the paid position of home tutor you will need to speak to the coordinator of your local HIPPY program.

How much does it cost to join HIPPY?

Joining HIPPY costs nothing as this program is fully funded through the Australian Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Families taking part in HIPPY receive a set of activity packs, storybooks and other materials designed to help their child's learning.

What do I need to do to join HIPPY?

To find out how to join HIPPY, speak to the HIPPY Coordinator of your local program. You will find their details on the back of this flyer.