

Copy of Email

From: Mavis Moodie (Principal, Onehunga Primary School)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2010 1:57 p.m.
To: Jane Hall (HIPPY National Director)
Subject: HIPPY at Onehunga

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Hello Jane

It was wonderful to have you out at Onehunga last week to share in the Onehunga HIPPY story. Our teachers are absolutely delighted at the marked difference seen in the readiness to learn of HIPPY children when they enter school at five. In the past we have had a lot of children entering school with little knowledge of books and language and with a lack of social skills and concentration to focus in on the more formal learning required to make the grade at five. It has often taken terms to settle some children in to routines, for them to be able to listen to and follow instructions, to cut and to paste and to use a pencil - (and often before we do reach them they have developed avoidance strategies). HIPPY children have all these readiness skills in place and also have a real love of learning.

HIPPY is fulfilling a real need in our community and it heartens me to recognise that HIPPY is forming a sound foundation in these early years, enabling the school to be able to lift children's achievement and set them up for a successful future. A lovely spin-off is in the way HIPPY families have learnt the benefits of being first teachers of their children and hope they have automatically formed a strong relationship with the school community, getting involved and supporting school practices. In effect HIPPY is really lifting a whole community!!

There is an old saying, 'Give me the child to seven, and I will show you the man'. This is so very true of HIPPY - this early intervention is so vital in setting a successful pathway in place for the child's future. If only the powers that be could put more resources into our young children and their families and the less they would need to worry about national standards, crime and health statistics. Money invested in young families can make the real difference!! HIPPY is playing an important role in making that difference for our people - thank you Jane and your team - HIPPY really is the way to a better New Zealand.

Please thank Margaret who attended our HIPPY Auction. We raised about \$7,000 which is about a third of the money required of us to fundraise for this year's programme. A great effort from Rotary but still a long way to go to reach our required contribution to our HIPPY programme. This is the one downside of the programme - always worrying if we will find our quota!! Onwards and upwards - knowing we are making a real difference for families keeps us keeping on!!

Thanks for your guidance and support,
Mavis

