

WE-CARE FOUNDATION /FOL/ HIPPY
FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE
3rd QUARTER REPORT
May-July 2017

Introduction

The Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) of the WE-CARE Foundation/Friends of Liberia (FOL)/HIPPY USA is a child-centered education program in Liberia that works with parents, giving them the skills, tools and confidence they need to become their children first teacher and preparing them for success in school. The program which is in its second year in the three original communities of Duazon, Caldwell and West Point, is targeting 120 families involving 123 children and 12 practice children who will be working with 12 home visitors under the supervision of the two coordinators. Here are the happenings and details of quarter-three report.



Group Meeting

The Family Literacy Initiative 2nd and 3rd group meetings which were conducted reflecting experiences and ideas learned from New Zealand included a round table interactive and engaging session with parents from the targeted communities: Caldwell, West Point and Duazon. The group meetings was scheduled based on the years spent in the program and the curriculum parents are working with. It involved hands-on materials, reading of books, engaging parents face to face with issues affecting them during the lesson presentation. It also helped home visitors and coordinators to work with parents from different perspectives. The group meetings brought together parents and children, from year 1 & 2 including WE-CARE executive director and coordinator.

TABLE 4. GROUP MEETING DATES, NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS, AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOME VISITORS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER

COMMUNITY	Group meeting date	Number of parents/caregivers participating	Number of participating Home Visitors/Coordinator
Caldwell	May 28, 2017	24	6
Duazon	May 27, 2017	21	6
West Point	May 30, 2017	28	6

TABLE 4. GROUP MEETING DATES, NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS, AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOME VISITORS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER

COMMUNITY	Group meeting date	Number of parents/caregivers participating	Number of participating Home Visitors/Coordinator
Caldwell	June 17, 2017	20	6
Duazon	June 10, 2017	9	6
West Point	June 24, 2017	20	6

➤ *Group meeting detail pre-male and female*

CALDWELL COMMUNITY

May	Male	Female	Total	June	Male	Female	Total
Parents	6	18	24	Parents	4	18	22
Children	9	15	24	Children	13	9	22
H.V & Coordinator	3	2	5	H.V& coordinators	4	2	6
Others	1		1	Other	1		1
Total			51	Total			51

➤ **CALDWELL GROUP MEETING PICTURES**



Gbima reads aloud to parents



James reads to children



Mr. Weah talks to parents



Parents take turn in role play



parents' express challenges



Book walk session

➤ *Group meeting detail pre-male and female*

DUAZON COMMUNITY

May	Male	Female	Total	June	Male	Female	Total
Parents	4	17	21	Parents	2	7	9
Children	14	9	23	Children	5	5	10
H.V & Coordinator	2	3	5	H.V& coordinators	2	4	6
Others	1		1	Other	1		1
Total			50	Total			26

➤ **DUAZON GROUP MEETING PICTURES**



Parent's role play activity



Parent's role play activity



Meeting Session



H.V. Rufus reads to children



Coordinator Yvonne reads



Coordinator David role plays

➤ *Group meeting detail pre-male and female*
WEST POINT COMMUNITY

May	Male	Female	Total	June	Male	Female	Total
Parents	0	28	28	Parents	2	18	20
Children	8	19	27	Children	6	14	20
H.V & Coordinator	2	3	5	H.V& coordinators	2	4	6
Others	1		1	Other	1		1
Total			61	Total			46

➤ **WEST POINT GROUP MEETING PICTURE**



Parent choral reads aloud



Children in circle



Parent role plays activities



Mercy read aloud to children



David carry out book walk



Genevieve reads to children

HOME VISITOR ROLE PLAY IN CALDWELL COMMUNITY



HOME VISITORS ROLE PLAY IN WEST POINT COMMUNITY



HOME VISITOR ROLE PLAY IN DUAZON COMMUNITY



PARENTS TEACHING HOME VISITORS IN THE THREE COMMUNITIES



Caldwell



Duazon



West point

PARENTS ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY WITH CHILDREN



Grandma Catharine role play activity with Grandson Courage in Caldwell community



Mother Mardea role plays activity with Emmanuel in Duazon community



Brother John role play activity with Sister Favor in Duazon community



H. Visitor role play activity with practice child

DELAY FAMILIES PRE-COMMUNITY AND HOME VISITOR

Delay Child	Years	Week #	Community	Home visitor	Reason
Victor Johnney	1	19	Duazon	Rufus Joe	Home instructor not regular
Favor Mitchell	1	8	Duazon	Rufus Joe	Replace the lost child
Favor Clark	1	6	Duazon	Lovetee During	Replace a child that move out of the community
Desmond Saywhan	1	8	Duazon	Louise Zayzay	Domestic violence
Prince Zayzay	2	19	Caldwell	Henrietta Sackie	Lost his grandma & sister
Augustine Zarbah	2	21	Caldwell	Henrietta Sackie	Mother give birth
Osman Rogers	2	21	Caldwell	Henrietta Sackie	Fasting /Muslim
Success Addy	2	13	Caldwell	Henrietta Sackie	Left the community
Miracle Roberts	2	3	Caldwell	Jeff Gbaleh	Left the community
Nancy Kamara	2	17	Caldwell	Jeff Gbaleh	Domestic problem
Favor Waka	2	15	West point	Nathaniel Wreh	Major Sickness
Francis Doe	2	15	West point	Nathaniel Wreh	Home Instructor not regular
Vincentlyne Weah	2	21	West point	Nathaniel Wreh	Home Instructor not regular
Alex Tue	1	21	West point	Nathaniel Wreh	Mother had Miscarried
Blamo Weah	2	19	West point	Nathaniel Wreh	Home Instructor not regular
Snotee Doe	2	21	West point	Mercy Nagbe	Lost her brother
Joyce Karbo	1	19	West point	Mercy Nagbe	Parent lost her child
Dorithy Quasiah	1	20	West point	Mercy Nagbe	Major Sickness
Grace Sulu	2	21	West point	Mercy Nagbe	Home Instructor not regular

DROP FAMILIES PER COMMUNITY AND HOME VISITORS

Child name	Year	Week	community	Home visitor	Reasons
Abraham Toepoe	1	17	Duazon	Louise Zayzay	Child move out of the community
Emmanuel Barbar	1	14	Duazon	Louise Zayzay	Parent move out of the community
Winifred Gaye	1	12	Duazon	Florence Zoe	Parent move out of the community

TRAINING STAFF UPDATE

Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) regular Friday training is ongoing, constant, reliable and more efficient with new knowledge shared from coordinator's trip. It continues to help check mark the home visitors and coordinator as well. The meeting is still the place for learning, sharing new experiences, successes, challenges, lesson learned and way forward.

During the meeting, everyone shared a story about the family, a child or the lesson structure. Materials for the week are delivered along with transportation, and call cards; the home visitors guide, tips and guidance are regular meeting tools along with the role play activities.

Based on the increment of staffs, the office space provided is not big enough to demonstrate or carry on the different role play activities. Below are some pictures during the regular meeting;

PICTURES

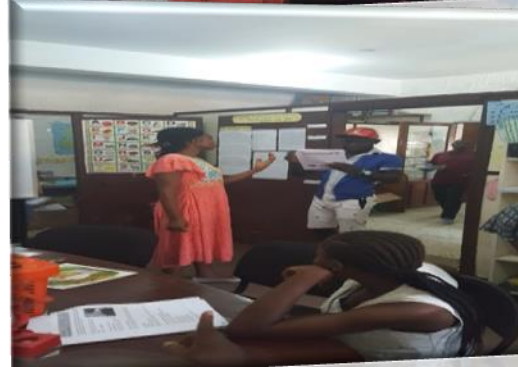


TABLE 3. HOME VISITS BY EACH HOME VISITOR DURING THE SECOND QUARTER				
COMMUNITY	Name of Home Visitor	# of families	Number of completed home visits	Number of scheduled home visits not completed
Caldwell	Jeff Gbaleh	14	101	25
	Henrietta Sackie	14	100	26
	Amina Menepalay	6	53	1
	James B. Morris	6	53	1
Duazon	Louise Z. Zayzay	17	130	17
	Florence C. Zor	10	77	13
	Rufus S. Joe	7	59	4
	Lovetee During	6	53	1
West Point	Nathaniel N. Wreh	14	97	29
	Mercy Q. Nagbe	14	111	15
	Tenneh Taweh	6	54	0
	Genevieve K. Akoi	6	49	5
TOTALS		120	937	137

Accomplishments/Successes

- Conduct 2nd & 3rd group meetings in the three communities used skills learned from New Zealand
- The group meetings were interactive and engaging with the new concepts and skills
- Regular Friday training meetings
- Conducted the HIPPY package week 20 assessment with year 1 children and Developed similar assessment package for year 2 children
- Successfully carried on implementation of year 1 & 2 curriculums through field visits by home visitors and coordinators
- Completed twenty four curriculum weekly training for home visitors and 23 weeks of home visits
- Submission of monthly updates
- Uploaded activity pictures on social media
- Identified with the bereaved families
- Parents welcomed the new style of group meeting because it is engaging.

CHALLENGES

There are several challenges including these major ones:

- The office space provided for role play activities is inadequate, based on the year 2 activities and the increment of the home visitors. Possibility of splitting the group may be an alternative.
- The delay and dropped family are mostly the year 2 families.
- Parents raising more concern about the adult literacy program
- In some of our homes, the heavy down pour of rain is hampering the access to some of the homes and as the result home visits are delayed. Also, some of the homes leak and the place are damp and flooded.

Way Forward

- To start the adult literacy program during the break, to enable parents get ready for the next circle.
- Consider Home visitors working full time
- To conduct early childhood development community education awareness program (ECDCEAP) with home visitors
- To conduct a work session or workshop with home visitors on new concepts and skills learned from New Zealand
- Work on community buy-in
- Finding a sub- office in one of the communities for easy access of families.

FAMILY LITERACY INTIATIVE COORDINATOR VISITS NEW ZEALAND

Introduction

In May this year, the coordinator of Family Literacy Initiative (FLI) Mrs. Gbima K. Bahtokpah was invited by HIPPY International to New Zealand to attend the following events, from the 5th of May -24th of May 2017:

World Forum of Education of Early Child Care
HIPPY International Meeting
Coordinator Training

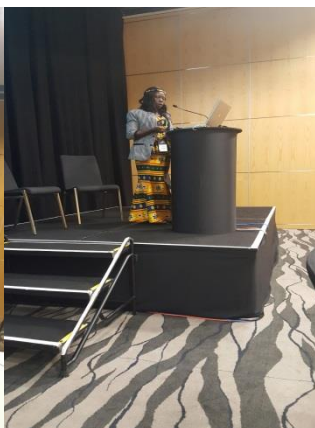


Excluding the traveling days though difficult, the first four days were scheduled for the World Forum on early child care and education. Through HIPPY International, Family Literacy Initiative (FLI)-Liberia was given a slot to make presentation at the World Forum. I used the opportunity to inform on the state of early childhood education in Liberia, and the intervention of Family Literacy Initiative Program—its goals, activities, successes and challenges. I got invaluable feedback from various scholars and colleagues in the field. Indeed, my voice was heard and my presence felt.

PRESENTATION PICTURE DURING THE CONFERENCE



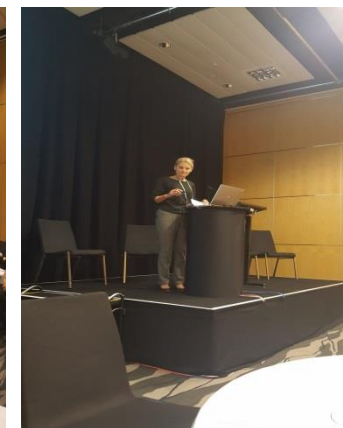
HIPPY Intern.



FLI/HIPPY Liberia



HIPPY Australia



HIPPY New Zealand

However, during one of the training sessions, I received an open invitation to apply to be an ECE Global Leader, a privilege to study and serve as a leader of early child care in my country, which I accepted.

The second part of my trip was a five-day HIPPY International meeting, where many countries were represented. There were updates, sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and new opportunities and ways forward for the HIPPY programs in the various countries.

PICTURES DURING HIPPY INTERNATIONAL MEETING



Finally a two-day HIPPY training sessions was planned just for my benefit to further build my capacity as a coordinator of the program. The training involved, observing a home visit, group meeting, and the role play method used throughout. I also received soft and hard copies of instructional materials on various implementations session of the HIPPY program styles in New Zealand. The session covered home visitors & coordinator training guide, home visits, conducting a successful group meeting, creating easy access to families and home visitors in a community, conducting a successful role play activities and regular training session among others.

PICTURES DURING THE TRAINING SESSIONS AND VISITS



RECOMMENDATION

From the experience gathered and new ideas learned, I would like to recommend the following to help implement the family literacy better in Liberia.

Conducting group meetings with smaller families at a time, with engagement and interactions among parents

Finding a sub-office in one of the communities for easy access to families

Coordinators rotate and conduct regular training session in communities

Major training sessions be held to build the home visitors capacity with new concept and skills, early childhood development community education awareness program (ECDCEAP) before or during the implementation circle

Pre- and post-assessment conducted, the team from WE-CARE/FLI should be taught to analyze the assessment data.

Acknowledgement

Through the collective effort of the entire team, my trip to New Zealand was a great success. I am therefore extending my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the team player for their may support.