
HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY

Sharing is easy—choose the option that works best for you:

- **Upload** your stories and media here: [Our HIPPY Our Community Form](#) **OR**
- **Email** photos/videos to: hippyaustralia.com.au

GUIDE TO SHARING YOUR STORIES FOR OUR HIPPY – OUR COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION: CELEBRATING OUR HIPPY – OUR COMMUNITY

Every HIPPY site has a unique story to tell. From graduations to everyday program delivery, your creativity and responsiveness make HIPPY thrive in diverse communities across Australia.

To celebrate this diversity, we're inviting sites to contribute stories, photos, and examples that show how each HIPPY site adapts to reflect local community this includes culture, language, and needs. Your stories help us demonstrate flexibility and inclusivity across the network. These contributions will be featured on HIPPY Australia's website and social media, giving your site visibility and helping us advocate for the program nationally.

Each story matters whether it shows how HIPPY adapts to diverse communities, highlights innovation and cultural responsiveness or strengthens advocacy with DSS and other stakeholders and this guide is designed to make sharing easy. Inside, you'll find:

- Hints and tips for telling your story
- Examples of simple adjustments and complex adaptations
- Story formats and ideas
- Consent requirements for photos and videos.

Together, we'll showcase the innovation and cultural responsiveness that make HIPPY strong. Thank you for helping us tell this important story!

HINTS & TIPS FOR SHARING STORIES

Not sure where to start? Here are some simple ways to make your story shine:

- Keep it short and clear—a paragraph and a photo can be powerful.
- Focus on what's unique about your approach.
- Explain why you made the change and how it helped families.
- Include quotes from parents, mentors, or community members for authenticity.
- Use visuals—photos or short videos make stories engaging.

EXAMPLES OF ADJUSTMENTS

Big or small, every change matters. Here are some ideas:

Easy, simple adjustments could include:

- Using Mentor instead of Tutor
- Renaming Role Play to something families connect with
- Calling a Gathering something meaningful in your community.

More complex adaptations may look like:

- Adjusting delivery schedules to fit community rhythms
- Combining face-to-face and digital delivery for remote families
- Embedding cultural practices like yarning circles or bilingual materials
- Partnering with local organisations for joint activities.

WHAT COULD STORIES LOOK LIKE?

Stories can be short and simple or more detailed—whatever works for you:

- Photo and caption (and short paragraph)
- Short story or mini case study.

Writing need not be difficult. Try keeping your submission to 1-2 paragraphs. Use plain language and focus on the positive impact in your program. Remember to add the context, that is, why this matters for your community.

5 Tips to makes a short story a great story?

1. Start with the Change - What did you adapt (provide examples)

- Changed Tutor to Mentor for cultural relevance.
- Replaced Role Play with a term families connect with.
- Named gatherings something meaningful locally.

2. Explain Why - Why was this change needed

- Did families find the original term confusing or intimidating?
- Was it important for cultural safety or inclusivity?

3. Show the Impact – Describe how families responded

- Did engagement improve?
- Did the program feel more welcoming?

4. Add Voices - Include quotes from families, Tutors/Mentors, or Coordinators.

- *"Families said they felt more comfortable when we used the word 'Mentor' because it sounded less formal."*

5. Include Media

- Photos of activities, gatherings, or materials.
- Short videos or audio clips.
- Screenshots of adapted resources.

Examples

Story 1: Language Change for Inclusion

"In our community, the word *Tutor* felt too formal and intimidating. We started using *Mentor* instead, and families immediately felt more comfortable. It helped build trust and made the program feel like a partnership."

Story 2: Cultural Adaptation

"Role Play didn't resonate with our families, so we call it *<Your Sites Term>*. This small change made parents feel less pressured and more supported, and participation increased."

Story 3: Community Connection

"We renamed our gatherings *<Your Sites Term>* to reflect local traditions. Families said it felt more welcoming and culturally safe, and attendance grew."

"To support remote families, we introduced <Your Sites Term> alongside home visits. This helped parents stay connected and engaged."

"We noticed families preferred evening sessions, so we shifted our schedule. Attendance increased by <X%>, and parents said it was easier to balance work and HIPPY."

Consent & Requirements

Before sharing photos or videos, please make sure everyone is informed and agrees:

- Participants must understand their images and stories will be used on social media and the HIPPY Australia website.
- Use a Photo/Media Consent Form that includes:
 - Purpose of use (social media, website, advocacy)
 - Where it will appear (HIPPY Australia platforms)
 - Permission for adults and children featured.
- Do not share images without signed consent.
- Avoid including personal details (addresses, phone numbers) in stories.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Sharing is easy—choose the option that works best for you:

Upload your stories and media here: [Our HIPPY Our Community Form](#), **OR**

Email photos/videos to: <mailto:hippyaustralia.com.au>

Together, we'll celebrate the diversity and innovation that make HIPPY strong.

Thank you for helping us tell this important story!