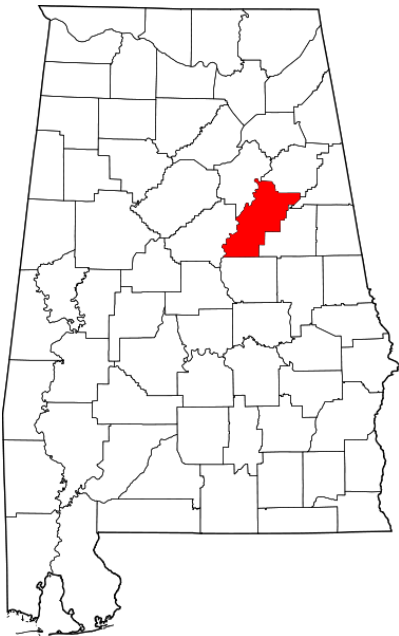


Talladega County



Lead Agency	S.A.F.E.
Address	78 Betsy Ross Lane
City	Sylacauga
Zip	35150
Agency Website	www.safefamilyservicecenter.org
Agency/HIPPY Phone	256-245-4343
Agency/HIPPY Fax	256-245-3675
Director	Margaret Morton
Director Email	mortonm@mysylacauga.com
Coordinator	Pam Sims
Coordinator Email	simsp@safesylacauga.com
Coordinator	Patsy Jones
Coordinator Email	jonesp@safesylacauga.com



Year Program Started	1998
Number of Families Served in 2009/2010	117
Number of Children Served in 2009/2010	131
Number in the 5-Year-Old Program 09/10	42
Number in the 4-Year-Old Program 09/10	49
Number in the 3-Year-Old Program 09/10	40
Number of Coordinators	1
Number of Parent Educators	10
Areas Served	Talladega County
Number of Schools Served	14
Schools Served	Talladega County Schools: Fayetteville Elementary, B.B. Comer Elementary, A. H. Watwood Elementary, Childersburg Elementary, Sycamore Elementary, Stemley Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, & Munford Elementary. Sylacauga City Schools: Indian Valley Elementary. Talladega City Schools: R. L. Young, Salter Elementary, Hal Henderson Elementary, Graham Elementary, & Houston Elementary

Program Overview

Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (SAFE) is a family services center located in Sylacauga, Alabama. In partnership with Sylacauga City Schools, Talladega City Schools, and Talladega County Schools, SAFE was awarded three separate HIPPY grants for the past three years. Within our HIPPY program there are ten parent educators with a coordinator. Presently there are 100 families and 108 children being served in our HIPPY program throughout Talladega County.

Collaborative Partnerships	Talladega Co. Schools, Sylacauga City Schools, Talladega City Schools, SAFE Family Services Center, First Family Services Center, TCRC Child Care Corp., Cheaha Regional Head Start, Daily Home Newspaper, Talladega Parks & Recreation Dept., Sylacauga Parks & Recreation Dept., AI Cooperative Extension, LEA Title 1 & Special Ed
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	Services, Talladega Public Library, Local Legislative Delegation, B.B. Comer Memorial Library, Lincoln Public Library, Rainwater Library, Cheaha Mental Health Center, Talladega Co. Ed. Leadership Coalition, Central AL Community College, Community Action Agency, and Talladega Co. Judicial System
Funding Sources	Community Service Grants, Legislative Delegation, fundraisers, and local donations.

HIPPY Success Story from Talladega County

Parent Educator, Becky Epperson

I was assigned a new family about nine years ago and was told that they would be at our HIPPY group meeting that month. This was a time when the Hispanic population was growing in our community. I was a little nervous to meet this new family wondering if we would be able to communicate. As soon as I walked into the room I see this beautiful little girl with a head full of long dark hair, sitting with her family. I go over and introduce myself, and mom speaks English. I was so relieved.

At our first home visit I was explaining to mom how the program works going over paperwork. Of course one of the first things I do is read "Where's Spot." Aide (the beautiful little girl) is so excited. As soon as we get through role playing the lesson, I have to read the book a few more times and then a few more on the next home visit. You get the idea. On one of the forms we fill out about our home visits we ask the question, "How many books have your read to your child this week?" Mom informs me that she does not like to read, and never reads to her kids. Of course I encourage her to read to her kids and tell her how important this is for young children.

After the first few visits I was intrigued by this family. Kristy (mom) had just moved here from Texas. She had never been this far away from her family and had to make some major adjustments. In addition, Aide had a little sister (Samantha) who was about 5 or 6 months old. I learned very quickly not to schedule any other visits close to this one because I spent a lot of time with this family. The communication barrier that I feared at the beginning was definitely not there. By the time we completed the first book's activities, Aide was hooked on reading with her mom. Mom did not have much of a choice but to read, read, read or listen to Aide's protests. Aide and her mom attended most every group meeting and mom enrolled herself and Aide in our Even Start program. she was determined to enhance her skills and earn her GED.

After having the pleasure working with this family for about 6 years...we had two HIPPY graduates and a mom who earned her GED. Aide is in the gifted program at Nichols Lawson Middle School, and her little sister, Sammy, has been evaluated for placement in the program at Pinecrest Elementary. Mom served as a HIPPY Parent Educator for three years working with other Hispanic families. She is now employed as a receptionist for a local family practice physician in our community and also provides translation services. Did I forget to mention that Aide and Sammy have a new little brother (another HIPPY graduate).

I would love to take some credit for the accomplishments that this family has made over the past few years, but the fact is all I did was deliver the resource through HIPPY. Mom is a role model to her children demonstrating through her hard work and perseverance that they can accomplish anything if they work hard and never give up. I am truly proud of each one of them, and honored to be able to call them my friends.

