



Alliance for the Advancement of  
**Infant Mental Health**

Alliance Statement Opposing Separation of Mothers and Children at Borders

The Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (Alliance) joins the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in firmly opposing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposal reported in the media that would separate immigrant mothers from their children when they arrive at the U.S. border.

Infant Mental Health professionals understand that relational health is the foundation for optimal social, emotional and cognitive development across the life span. The parent-child relationship provides safety, comfort and security, promoting good mental health for infants and children. An interruption to this protective bond is traumatic and places the young child at significant risk for significant developmental and behavioral disorders in early childhood and later years.

We encourage border authorities to take into account the needs of infants and young children for emotional and physical safety and insure that no young child is separated from his/her parents.

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Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, Inc.®