

Infant Mental Health Endorsement® (IMH-E®) for Infant Toddler Educators

Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health®

Infant Mental Health (IMH) is social, emotional, and behavioral well-being for infants and young children. IMH develops within the context of sensitive and responsive relationships and care routines. Research is clear - the first three years of life are critical to lifelong health and well-being, making the role and responsibilities of Infant Toddler Educators and Care Providers incredibly important to family, community, and societal success. Yet there have been few professional opportunities that recognize the knowledge, skills, and aptitudes of early educators and legitimizes the field, until now.

IMH-Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health (IMH-E®) is an internationally recognized credential that supports and recognizes professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. It's the largest and most recognized IMH credentialing system in the United States and it's available to you here in Wisconsin!

Early Educators, including teachers, care providers, trainers, coaches, directors and program administrators can work towards earning Endorsement®.



Why should I pursue Endorsement?

Good for You:

Earning Endorsement® enhances your skills, knowledge, credibility and confidence in working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. *Plus*, you'll gain recognition in a cross-systems, multi-disciplinary network of Endorsed professionals in Wisconsin.

Good for Babies and Families:

Infants, toddlers, and families receive culturally sensitive, relationship-based care and educational services from professionals and programs that demonstrate and practice a common set of core IMH competencies.

Good for Communities:

Endorsement® provides assurance to families, friends, and the public at large that Infant Toddler Educators, Care Providers, and programs hold capacity in supporting optimal development of infants, young children, and their families through sensitive and responsive relationships and care routines.

Good for Employers:

Endorsement® supports capacity building through professional development opportunities, awareness when hiring new staff, and standards for best practices in care and programming.

Good for the Field:

Endorsement® informs professional development and career planning within an organized framework and creates a competent, high-quality workforce leading to optimal child and family outcomes.

Good for Early Education programs:

Endorsement® professionalizes the Early Education field and ensures consistency of professional standards across programs, location, and communities.



WISCONSIN ALLIANCE FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

— Early Relationships Matter —

IMH-Endorsement® and Infant Toddler Educators:

Did you know.....

- All Infant/Toddler professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers are eligible to apply. To earn Endorsement®, professionals need to meet requirements as specified at the endorsement category that best fits their experiences.
- If your program participates in YoungStar, micro-grant funds can be used to pay the application and registration fees for Endorsement®.
- Active membership with an Infant Mental Health Association is required; but, this too can be covered by YoungStar micro-grant funding or your program can apply for group membership with WI-AIMH for a reduced price compared to individual membership!
- Your continuing education hours that meet licensing requirements can also meet the training requirements for Endorsement®.
- Endorsement® competencies can be linked to the WI Core Competencies. When you attend a Registry approved training, you can use the WI-Core Competencies as a guide to match to the Infant Mental Health competencies.
- Many trainings, workshops, conferences, and non-credit based courses that you have attended throughout your career can be used to meet the Endorsement training requirements!

What do I need to apply for IMH-Endorsement® Family Associate?

Education and/or Work Experience	1. Official transcripts from any academic coursework including Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's Degrees OR 2. Official transcript/certificate from Child Development Associate (CDA) program OR 3. Two years of infant-related paid work experience
Training	Typically 40 or more hours of training to meet <i>Competency Guidelines</i> ®
Reflective Supervision/ Consultation	Not required, but encouraged for Infant Family Associate
Professional Reference Ratings	Total of three are required
Professional Membership	Current membership in an IMH organization

How Can I Apply?

Visit WI-AIMH website for more information and the link to EASy application <http://wiaimh.org/endorsement/>.

Questions? Contact the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health

Call: (608) 442-0360

Visit: <http://wiaimh.org/endorsement/>

Email: IMH-E@wiaimh.org