

What is infant mental health?

Mental health in infancy represents both the social and emotional capacities of a child and the primary relationships developed in early childhood. These relationships are central to infant mental health because the social experiences and opportunities to explore the world depend on the love and care a child receives.

Emotional development involves the experience of feelings about self and others. There should be a range of positive and negative emotions, as well as the ability to control and regulate feelings in appropriate ways.

Social development includes the ability to form healthy relationships and an understanding of social rules and expectations. Academic and personal success are dependent on healthy social and emotional development.



Endorsement Program

Infant Mental Health Endorsement Program

KAIMH sponsors an Endorsement Program that recognizes professional education and practice skills in the infant mental health field.

The KAIMH Endorsement Program has adopted the Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health Endorsement model. The program's intent is to recognize professional competence within the diverse and rapidly expanding infant and family field. There are four levels of competency within the KAIMH Endorsement Program.

- ◆ Infant Family Associate
- ◆ Infant Family Specialist
- ◆ Infant Mental Health Specialist
- ◆ Infant Mental Health Mentor



Each level recognizes educational experiences, in-service training experiences, and work experiences that are appropriate for best service outcomes for infants, toddlers and families.

KAIMH believes the Endorsement Program to be an important professional development tool that will inform employers, agencies and peers that the person who has attained Endorsement embraces culturally sensitive, relationship-based practice promoting infant mental health.

For more information on IMH-Endorsement, go to www.kaimh.org or contact us at info@kaimh.org.



KAIMH

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ KS: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

*Email: _____

Profession/Position: _____

Workplace: _____

*Necessary for Listserv and Notification of Training- will not be shared

Regular Membership \$35 \$ _____

Organizational \$250 (up to 10 members) \$ _____

*attach member list **\$25 for each additional member

Student/Retiree \$15 \$ _____

Childcare Provider/Parent \$10 \$ _____

Donation _____ Organizational Sponsor \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

KAIMH

PO Box 743

Newton, KS 67114

**Renew or Join online at www.kaimh.org*

Benefits of Membership

- ◆ Access to the KAIMH Endorsement Program
- ◆ Discounts at KAIMH sponsored events
- ◆ KAIMH Electronic Newsletter
- ◆ Professional listing on KAIMH Website
- ◆ Opportunities to be actively involved

Membership is from January thru December



A professional association dedicated to the healthy emotional development of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families.

Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
 PO Box 743
 Newton, KS 67114

Our Mission

The Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH) is an association of professionals dedicated to improving the social and emotional development of infants and toddlers. Founded in 1995, KAIMH is devoted to infant and early childhood development, starting prenatally and continuing through preschool age children.

The mission of KAIMH is to advance and promote the field of infant and early childhood mental health through professional recognition and connection, providing educational opportunities to professionals in the field, and promoting and advocating for public policies that advance the importance of social and emotional development of infants and very young children.



Goals

KAIMH has three main goals:

1. To encourage the realization that infancy is a critical period in the psychosocial and emotional development of individuals.
2. To disseminate knowledge to its members as well as to combat the sense of isolation of those disciplines working in the infant mental health field.
3. To provide information to the general public, which will enhance awareness and bring to public attention the psychosocial and emotional needs of children in the first years of life.