



Minnesota Association For  
**Infant & Early  
Childhood  
Mental Health**

The Minnesota Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MAIECMH), a division of MACMH, is a statewide organization whose mission is to promote the social and emotional development and mental health of children, prenatal through age five, and their families and caregivers.

The goals of MAIECMH include education and advocacy resulting in enhanced culturally competent interdisciplinary capacity to serve infants, young children and their families. At the heart of this work is the relationship between a child and her or his parents/caregivers, the primary context within which mental health promotion, screening, assessment and interventions are provided. Central to these efforts is the ongoing support and professional development of those who work with families – professionals who continually grow in knowledge, skills and reflection on their work with children and families. Please see the reverse side of this document for a summary of MAIECMH’s infant and early childhood mental health professional endorsement program.

The MAIECMH and its members work to advance standards in practice among a range of professional disciplines touching the lives of infants, young children and their families. A statewide advisory board and committee structure guide the work of the association. Please contact Candy Kragthorpe for more information and to become a member of MAIECMH.

**Minnesota Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**

*A Division of the Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health*

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## **Professional Endorsement Program for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-based Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**

The Minnesota Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MAIECMH) offers a professional endorsement program to providers and clinicians who work in a range of work settings and professional disciplines at four different professional levels spanning the continuum of care. Developed by the Michigan Infant Mental Health Association, the program promotes and documents the professional development of infant, early childhood, family service, health and mental health professionals focusing on culturally sensitive, relationship-based infant and early childhood mental health.

Professional endorsement provides to peers, employers, referrals and court services seeking expert witnesses necessary information regarding a professional's education and skills related to the social and emotional development and mental health of infants, young children and their families. The endorsement process also informs individual professional development and career planning within a standards-of-practice framework focused on specialized knowledge, culturally competent best practice skills, reflective supervision and mental health consultation.

### **Four Professional Competency Levels Spanning the Continuum of Care**

Level 1 Infant and Family Associate CDA or Associate's degree with two years work experience in the infant, early childhood and family field (examples may include but are not limited to providers of **promotion services** such as childcare, play group, Doula).

Level 2 Infant and Family Specialist Bachelor's or Master's Degree (examples may include but are not limited to providers of **prevention and intervention services** such as home visitors, Part C providers, NICU nurse, parent educator, child care consultant, child protection worker, parent and child support services).

Level 3 Infant Mental Health Specialist Master's or Post-graduate degree (examples may include but are not limited to providers of **intervention and treatment** such as mental health clinician and supervisor, clinical nurse practitioner, lactation consultant, early intervention specialist).

Level 4 Infant Mental Health Mentor Master's or Post-graduate, Doctorate, Post-doctorate or MD (examples may include but are not limited to **leadership** roles such as supervisor, administrator, researcher, faculty member, policy specialist, physician).

### **Building Minnesota's Professional Development Capacity**

The MAIECMH works with statewide organizations and others to promote pre-service and continuing education, training and certificate programs with goals and objectives that advance key professional competencies at all four levels. Competencies may include but are not limited to theoretical foundations; law, regulation and policy; systems expertise; direct service, reflection and leadership skills; and research and evaluation.