

# Why Should WV Birth to Three Professionals Consider Infant Mental Health Endorsement?



**Myth: Seeking Endorsement adds a lot of extra time and work to your professional development.**

**FACT:** The developmental support and guidance that you nurture within the families that you serve, naturally aligns with the Infant Mental Health Endorsement® criteria. Evidence-based research tells us that the first three years of life are critical to lifelong health and well-being, making the role and responsibilities of Birth to Three professionals incredibly important to family and community success. The IMH Endorsement® 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 West Virginia!

## Why should I pursue Endorsement?

**Good for You:** Earning IMH-E® enhances your credibility and confidence in working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. You'll gain recognition and belong to a cross-systems, multi-disciplinary network of Endorsed professionals in WV.

**Good for Babies and Families:** Infants, toddlers, and families receive culturally sensitive, relationship-based early childhood services provided by a workforce that demonstrates a common set of core competencies.

**Good for Communities:** IMH-E® provides assurance to families that early childhood professionals meet high standards of care and are prepared to support optimal development of infants, young children, and their families.

**Good for Programs:** IMH-E® professionalizes the early childhood field and ensures consistency of professional standards across programs, no matter the provider, location, or services.

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## The IMH Competencies® naturally align with Early Childhood work

**IMH-Endorsement® supports the belief that positive social-emotional development is foundational** to other learning, and that healthy development happens within the context of nurturing relationships and environments.

**IMH competencies® provide a professional development "road map"** for acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to attend to the often complex nature of early social and emotional development and parent-child relationships.

**IMH-Endorsement® recognizes the value of reflection and self-care** which further prepares WV Birth to Three professionals to be present with families, and hold those families who are experiencing tender emotions as they step into the challenges and the joys of parenthood.

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**For more information, please contact the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association or visit [www.nurturingwvbabies.org](http://www.nurturingwvbabies.org)**

Special thanks to the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health for sharing information