

How does college coursework align with the WV Infant Mental Health Endorsement?



Infant mental health is rooted in the same principles and practices of social emotional development.

Within West Virginia, college coursework in infant, toddler, and early intervention fields centers on supporting the healthy social emotional development of children. The IMH Endorsement® recognizes professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families, focusing on professional development, work experiences, and infant mental health best practices. It's the largest and most recognized IMH credentialing system in the United States, and it's available to you here in West Virginia, leading to increased confidence and credibility!

Why is Endorsement important to recent college graduates?

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 curriculum, location, or services.

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.

If you would like to get more information about Endorsement and how it applies to you, please contact the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association or visit www.nurturingwvbabies.org

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