


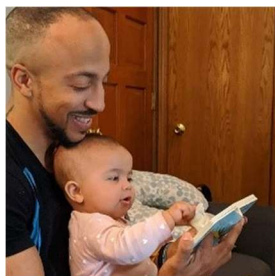


# Infant Mental Health Endorsement® & The Registry Infant Toddler Credential Toolkit

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## WELCOME EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS!

***Did you know?*** As an ECE professional in Wisconsin, you could earn Endorsement® and join the largest and most recognized Infant Mental Health (IMH) credentialing system available in the United States!

***Use this toolkit to learn more about IMH Endorsement®, the benefits it provides to The Registry’s Infant Toddler Credential graduates, and how to apply to obtain this internationally recognized credential.***

The [Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health \(WI-AIMH\)](#) is a statewide organization that strives to promote infant mental health through building awareness, promoting professional capacity, fostering partnerships, and supporting policies which are in the best interest of infants, young children, and their families. WI-AIMH aims for all Wisconsin infants and young children to reach their fullest potential through nurturing and consistent relationships within the context of family, community and culture.

WI-AIMH has partnered with [The Registry](#) and the Registry Infant Toddler Credential to expand Endorsement®. Through our collaboration with The Registry, it was discovered the Registry Infant Toddler Credential curriculum aligns with the recognized IMH competencies, theoretical foundations and learning experiences that will equip early care and education professionals to provide high quality, culturally sensitive and relationship-based care to infants, toddlers and their families within the framework of infant mental health.



***INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (IMH)*** is the developing capacity of children from birth to 6 to experience, regulate, and express emotions; to form close relationships; and to explore the environment and learn – all in the context of family, community, and cultural expectations for young children. IMH is a multidisciplinary field that includes all professionals who support children’s social and emotional development through promotion, prevention, intervention and/or leadership.



# Infant Mental Health Endorsement® & The Registry Infant Toddler Credential Toolkit



**What is IMH Endorsement®?** Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® is an internationally recognized credential that supports and recognizes the development and proficiency of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. It is based on a set of Competencies designed to support and enhance culturally sensitive, relationship focused practice within a framework of infant mental health. An applicant demonstrates acquisition of these competencies through education, work, training and reflective supervision experiences.

## What is the Registry Infant Toddler Credential?

The Registry Infant Toddler Credential is a 12-credit, 4-course series offered by accredited higher education institutions located throughout Wisconsin. This credential is designed for providers who work with children under the age of three. Students taking this credential gain understanding of the developmental stages of children under the age of three while learning how to best guide and nurture children in both center-based and family settings. Themes of cultural sensitivity and reflective practice are woven through the course series which align well with Infant Mental Health Endorsement®.

desired child/family outcomes; and uplifts the professional credibility of the IMH field and the multiple disciplines within the field, including Early Care Education.

## Why pursue Endorsement® if I have an Infant Toddler Credential?

Completion of The Registry's Infant Toddler Credential represents a significant step in one's professional career equipping them with essential education for working with infants, toddlers, and their families. Endorsement® provides added professional credibility by validating the additional training, work and reflective experiences that make up the full range of specialized knowledge and experiences one needs for IMH informed practice leading to the best outcomes for children, families and communities. Endorsement® is:

**Good for You:** Enhances professional credibility and confidence as a specialist in the infant and family field.

**Good for Babies and Families:** Supports infants, toddlers, families, and professionals in a culturally competent, reflective, and relationship-based way.

**Good for Communities:** Provides assurance to families, agencies, employers and the public at large that the Endorsed professional meets high standards of care.

**Good for Employers:** Verifies professionals have attained a specified level of functioning and understanding about the promotion of IMH and relationship-based approaches to working with this specialized population.

**Good for the Field:** Informs professional development and career planning within an organized framework; creates a competent, high quality workforce leading to

IMH-E®

**Infant Mental Health Endorsement**

*for culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice  
promoting infant mental health*

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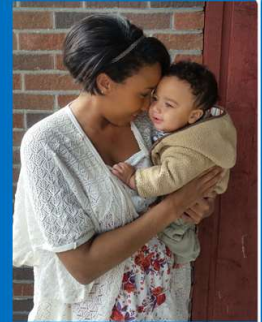
## What category of Endorsement® is right for me?

Endorsement®, like Infant Mental Health, is cross-sector and multidisciplinary. Endorsement® indicates an individual's efforts to specialize in the promotion and practice of infant or early childhood mental health within their own chosen discipline. For this reason, Endorsement® has four categories that are tied to an individual's scope of practice. **Many Infant Toddler Credential graduates find Category I: Infant Family Associate to be most appropriate based on their education, training, work experience and scope of practice.**

The categories of Endorsement® are:

- I. **Infant Family Associate (IFA)** for professionals whose work centers on the promotion of social and emotional development
- II. **Infant Family Specialist (IFS)** for professionals whose work focuses on prevention
- III. **Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS)** for professional's who provide IMH clinical intervention and treatment
- IV. **Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM)** for leaders in the infant-family field
  - Clinical (IMHM-C)
  - Policy (IMHM-P)
  - Research / Faculty (IMHM-R/F)

"Earning Endorsement® was rewarding to me because I have (and continue to) put in a lot of time and effort to study, learn and put into practice important concepts that build capacity and promote positive change in relationships among families. Achieving this credential and demonstrating the competencies have given me more confidence and the credibility to do my work."

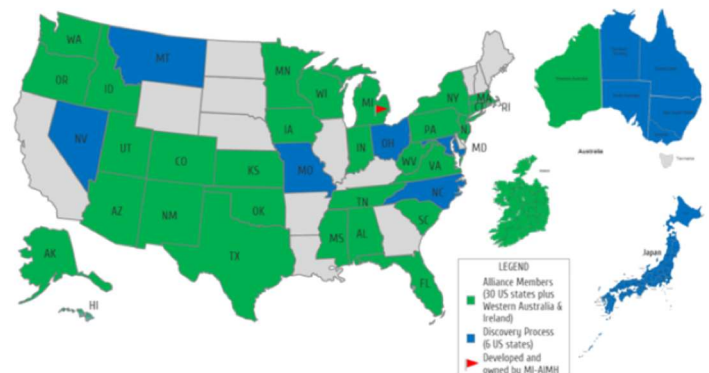


*"I think Endorsement® is important because you have something to show for your work that you have been dedicated to for many years. I think Endorsement® also opens the door for conversations regarding Infant Mental Health."*

The Alliance is growing!  
Be part of the movement.  
Learn more: [allianceaimh.org](http://allianceaimh.org)

## Belong to an international network of IMH Professionals!


IMH-Endorsement® is nationally and internationally recognized. When you become Endorsed you will join an international network of over 3,715+ professionals who have earned IMH-E® across the world!



Alliance for the Advancement of  
Infant Mental Health

# Infant Mental Health Endorsement® & The Registry Infant Toddler Credential Toolkit

## How do I apply for an Endorsement®?

 **Step 1: Get Ready...Preparation to complete an Endorsement® application:**  
*Prepare the following information applicable to the Endorsement® category in which you are applying based on the Infant Mental Health Competencies associated with the category:*

- Request **official transcripts** from universities in which higher education courses or degrees were completed sent directly to WI-AIMH for upload to your Endorsement® application after registration. (Attn: Tina Hogel, WI-AIMH 133 S. Butler St. Suite 340 Madison, WI 53703)
- Gather details of at least **30 hours of additional continuing education training** in topics related to IMH competencies (i.e. date, duration, facilitator, and topic).
- Prepare descriptions of **infant-toddler related work experience** as it relates to IMH competencies.
- Identify of **three professional references** that meet the reference requirements for the category in which you are applying and are familiar with your knowledge and practice. See the [Reference Rating forms](#) for details of what references will be asked.

*Requirements for each category of IMH Endorsement® vary. If you believe you may qualify for Category II, III or IV review the [Endorsement® Overview Chart](#) for a brief overview of respective requirements, use the [Which Endorsement is Right for Me?](#) decision tree, as well as see the detailed [IMH Endorsement® Competency Guidelines](#) for full in-depth descriptions and examples to determine which category is the best fit for your education, experience and scope of practice. Contact WI-AIMH Endorsement Coordinator with questions.*

 **Step 2: Completion of an Endorsement® Application:**

*Five steps to completion of IMH Endorsement® application:*

1. **Register in the Endorsement Application System (EASy)**, a web-based system for completing applications for IMH Endorsement® found [here](https://easy.mi-aimh.org/wi-aimh) (<https://easy.mi-aimh.org/wi-aimh>). The first time you visit Wisconsin's EASy, click "Register" under "New Applicant."
2. To register, EASy requires you to provide a brief description of your work, education, and Reflective Supervision (RS) experiences (RS is not required for IFA, IMHM-R/F or IMHM-P). **Complete and submit**, including payment for EASy Registration Fee. (*See your IT Credential instructor to receive a coupon code to waive EASy registration fee as a graduate of The Registry's Infant Toddler Credential!*).
3. Prepare application following prompts imbedded within the application, using resources provided in this toolkit and contacting WI-AIMH coordinator with questions; submit official transcripts and three references. **Submit completed application** along with payment for the EASy Processing Fee at one of four recurring quarterly submission periods (i.e. Mar 15<sup>th</sup>, Jun 15<sup>th</sup>, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> or Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>).
4. **Documentation of competencies** and eligibility components reviewed by two Endorsed reviewers.
5. Upon recommendation from formal review, **IMH Endorsement® granted!**\* (\*Note: for Category III & Category IV successful completion of written Endorsement® exam required).

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## Step 3: Maintaining your Endorsement®

To maintain Endorsement®, every year professionals complete and document 15 hours of continuing education related to the promotion of Infant Mental Health competencies in addition to maintaining membership in the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health or another IMH association. See the [Step-by-Step Endorsement® Renewal Guide](#) for details for documenting ongoing continuing education.

### Celebrate! You did it!

Congratulations on earning this esteemed credential! Your Endorsement® recognizes your specialized knowledge and skill set as well as your commitment to the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health field!



## Additional Resources

- Watch this informative webinar, ["EASy: Infant Family Associate,"](#) which walks you through the IFA application, step-by-step (password: babies123).
- Read the complete [EASy Applicant Instructions](#) and reference the [Endorsement Application Checklist](#) for support as you complete your application.
- Check out additional Endorsement® resources [here](#).

## Questions...

Visit the [IMH Endorsement® information page](#) on WI-AIMH's website for more Endorsement® information. Contact WI-AIMH's Endorsement® coordinator with any Endorsement® related questions.

Email: [IMH-E@wiaimh.org](mailto:IMH-E@wiaimh.org) Phone: 608-442-0360

Visit the [Registry Infant Toddler Credential](#) information page on The Registry's website for credential information. Contact The Registry with credential related questions.

Email: [support@the-registry.org](mailto:support@the-registry.org) Phone: 608-222-1123

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*"Thank goodness for IMH. Child Care was a vulnerable system prior to the Pandemic. I was lucky I was connected to IMH, Reflective Supervision and Endorsement®. You gave me strength, a support system, and recognized my value for caring for and educating our most vulnerable citizens, our infants and very young children."*

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