



New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health

Endorsement Requirements Level 3, Infant Mental Health Specialist

Introduction

The Level 3 Competency Guidelines have been adopted by the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health to clearly describe the areas of expertise, responsibilities, and behaviors that demonstrate competency at this level. Level 3 practitioners have earned a minimum of a Master’s degree, may possess a Doctoral degree, and meet the competencies defined in the Competency Detail for Level 3. Examples of practitioners who may perform the specialized work as described in the Level 3 work requirement section and for whom Level 3 competencies may be appropriate include, but are not limited to Developmental Specialist III, clinical nurse practitioner, and mental health clinician.

Each professional who works with families, infants and toddlers deserves and requires supervision and/or consultation that enhances his/her ability to be self aware, and to examine his/her professional and personal thoughts and feelings in response to work within the infant and family field. Level 3 practitioners will receive a minimum of 25 hours of reflective supervision and/or consultation per year or 50 clock hours in a two-year time frame.

NMAIMH Endorsement Requirements Infant Mental Health Specialist Level 3

Requirements: Preparation of a Portfolio	
Education:	<p>Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctorate in Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) or other degree specific to one’s professional focus in infant mental health; university certificate program and/or course work in areas such as infant and toddler development, family-centered practice, cultural sensitivity, family relationships and dynamics, assessment and intervention, in accordance with NMAIMH Endorsement Competencies. Official transcript(s) required.</p> <p>Applicants may ask to use intensive in-service training to fulfill some of the recommended coursework.</p>
Training:	<p>Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health. Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in Competency Guidelines) have been met.</p>





Requirements: Preparation of a Portfolio	
Specialized Work Experience:	<p>2 years, post-graduate, supervised work experiences providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services¹. This specialized work experience must be with both the infant/toddler and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. Infant mental health services will include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, developmental guidance, early relationship assessment, and parent-infant/young child relationship-based therapies and practices. These therapies and practices may include but are not limited to parent-infant psychotherapy, interaction guidance, and child-parent psychotherapy. These therapies and practices are intended to explore issues related to attachment, separation, trauma and unresolved losses as they affect the development, behavior and care of the infant/young child.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1 year supervised graduate internship with direct service experience in providing culturally sensitive, relationship-based, infant mental health services and 1 year, post-graduate, supervised work experience as described above.</p>
Reflective Supervision/Consultation:	Relationship-focused, reflective supervision/as described in the NMAIMH document <i>Reflective Supervision and Consultation Defined</i> , individually or in a group, while providing services to infants, toddlers, and families. Minimum: 50 clock hours within a two-year time frame (maximum).
Professional Reference Ratings:	<p>Total of three professional reference ratings from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One rating from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant 2. One rating from person providing reflective supervision/consultation 3. Third rating may be from another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if candidate is a supervisor).
Code of Ethics Statement, Agreement, Candidate's Waiver:	Signed
Documentation of Competencies:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful completion of two-level review of contents of portfolio 2. Successful completion of the NMAIMH written examination.
Professional Membership:	Membership in NMAIMH or another infant mental health association
Continuing Endorsement Requirements:	
	<p>15 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the social and emotional development of infants, toddlers and families</p> <p>Annual renewal of membership in NMAIMH or another Infant mental health association</p> <p>NMAIMH recommends that all endorsed professionals continue to receive regular reflective supervision/consultation.</p>

¹Infant mental health services that meet Level III specialized work criteria are provided by professionals whose role includes intervention or treatment of the infant/toddler's primary caregiving relationship, (e.g., biological, foster, or adoptive parent); these experiences are critical to the development of a specialization in infant mental health. Infant Family Specialist, Level II is broader and includes practitioners whose work experiences come solely from programs that provide education/support/ consultation to infant & early childhood care providers or whose intent is primarily to educate parents.

