



*What Happens in the Early Years
Matters Forever*

The Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health (VAIMH)

Is an interdisciplinary, professional, non-profit organization established to nurture and promote the optimal development of infants, toddlers, young children, and families through relationship-based training and advocacy.

Our Vision

Infant and early childhood mental health supports relationships between infants and young children between the ages of 0-6 and their family and caregivers to build healthy social-emotional development.

Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Principles

1. Optimal growth and development occur within nurturing relationships.
2. The birth and care of a new baby offer a family the possibility of new relationships, growth, and change.
3. What happens in the early years affects the course of development across the lifespan.
4. Early developing attachment relationships may be distorted or disturbed by parental histories of unresolved losses and traumatic life events.
5. The therapeutic presence of an I/ECMH Specialist may reduce the risk of relationship failure and offer the hopefulness of warm and nurturing parental responses.



In Early Childhood
Infant Mental Health =
Healthy Social-Emotional

Benefits of Membership

- ✦ Free online professional development opportunities.
- ✦ Networking with other professionals across disciplines committed to infant and early childhood mental health.
- ✦ An opportunity to impact how Virginia moves forward in its initiatives to support the mental health and welfare of families.
- ✦ Participation in regional Chapter meetings.
- ✦ Membership meets one of the criteria for candidates seeking Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® at any category.

Join us!

Membership Fee:
\$60/year

Group discounts available

To Join:

<https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership>

For more Info:

<https://www.vaimh.org>

Contact:

Melinda Whitehurst, pvaimh@gmail.com
VAIMH Membership Chair