

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

The first three years of a child's life is important in establishing the basis for a healthy life later; including school performance, mental health, and social interaction. Studies find that brain development during this period is actually altered toward achieving these goals, when relationships with parents are optimal and in the child's best interest.

Infant mental health services are offered to families of infants and toddlers, 0 through 3 years of age, when a family member has been diagnosed with a mental illness. Services can begin during pregnancy and are home-based and often involve numerous contacts every month. Infant mental health specialists focus on assisting parents toward a positive relationship with their child, and supporting the parents toward enhancing healthy emotional and physical development of their infant/toddler.

Services may include:

- Parent/infant psychotherapy
- Developmental assessments
- Therapeutic work around play interactions
- Support and coordination for doctor visits or other needs for family health
- Case coordination and monitoring of psychiatric treatment or other services
- Flexible scheduling depending on a parent's needs
- Referrals to school programs or other support services
- Services in the home or in the community



