



Texas Association for Infant Mental Health

The Texas Association for Infant Mental Health (TAIMH) was founded in 1980 by a group of volunteers, mental health providers, early care and education professionals, university personnel, and community advocates. The mission of the Texas Association for Infant Mental Health is to promote the healthy emotional development of infants, toddlers and their families.

We are a statewide organization that advances our mission by:

- Building awareness of the critical importance of the first three years of life.
- Supporting conditions that enhance the quality of infant and toddler/caregiver relationship.
- Advocating for policies and practice that supports the healthy development of infants and toddlers.
- Educating the birth to three workforce in best practice.

With over 300 members, TAIMH's statewide membership represents diverse disciplines including education, medicine, speech pathology, occupational and physical therapy, public policy, child development, law, and others. The organization, an affiliate of the World Association for Infant Mental Health, has five regional chapters; West Texas AIMH (Lubbock), Early Connections for Children's Mental Health (Tarrant County), El Paso, Central Texas (Austin), and South Texas.

One of TAIMH's major activities is offering the TAIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health, a tiered system for credentialing infant mental health specialists. Other activities are offering the Food for Thought series, holding the Infant Mental Health Advocacy Conference and Award, and publishing a quarterly newsletter.

TAIMH's "Food for Thought" is a training series that was developed by the Dallas members and has been shared with all the Chapters. Each session focuses on a wide-range of infant mental health topics including; behavior and temperament, keeping parents engaged, attachment, and infant/toddler signals. The Texas Association for Infant Mental Health also sponsors the biennial Infant Mental Health Advocacy Conference and the T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., Infant Mental Health Award that honors the advocacy efforts of professionals in the field. The newsletter is published quarterly with articles that pertain to infant mental health and resources for professionals working with babies and their families.

TAIMH's website (www.taimh.org) has information regarding infant mental health, the TAIMH Endorsement, the committees and their activities, and chapter activities.