













# An Emphasis on Infant Mental Health as Foundational to all BABIES' Development

IMH Definition:

"Infant mental health" refers to how well a child develops socially and emotionally from birth to three.

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# (Zeanah, 2009 p. 6)

- · A focus on strengths of the infant and family
- Clinicians work to build competence (i.e.for babies that means regulation) and address problems
- A relational framework for assessment and intervention:
  - Infant-caregiver relationships are the primary focus
- · A prevention orientation
  - Intervention efforts always include prevention given the dynamics of development

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Assumptions in Providing Developmentally Supportive, Relationship Based Care		
The family is the most important and consistent context in which an infant develops. 1	Developmentally supportive care must be a collaborative approach that draws on the expertise, strengths and resources of the family <b>2</b>	
An informative and supportive relationship with the family will ultimately benefit the infant.	Infants are in continuous interaction with their environment (Als, 1982) and are active collaborators in all of their interactions (Als & Gikerson, 4	

















What does the uterine environment provide? **REGULATION** • Sensory stimulation • Physiologic processes • Circadian rhythms • Arousal • Growth and development











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Developmental Foundations in Newborns and Very Young Infants

Greenspan Developmental Milestonesby Age Groups0-3 months: Exhibits growing self-<br/>regulation and interest in the world4-5 months: Engages in relationships6-9 months: Uses emotions in an

interactive, purposeful manner















# <section-header> Brain Growth in First Three Months Holland, et al., 2014 Brain volume at birth was about one third of healthy adult brain Growth rate 1% per day, slowing to 0.4% per day by the end of the first 3 months Brain reached 64% of elderly adult brain volume by three months.

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Continuing Difficulties with Transitions to Home for Infants and Parents

### For Parents

- Eating healthily
- Getting enough sleep
  - Relationships
- Coping

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- Managing all the things that need to be done (e.g. feeding)
- Psychological/emotional adjustment

### For Babies

- Feeding
  - Sleep wake cycles
- Social interaction
- Self regulation
- Motor maturity and coordination
- Sensitivity to incoming sensory aspects of the environment





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Arousal and Sleep Reflective

Questions







VONDER Cabic

















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· Calms to caregiver's

Achieves periods of

voice and face

vocalization

Begins reciprocal

alertness for interactionLooks to find caregiver's

voice



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- Stays asleep or goes to sleep when interaction is offered
  - Becomes irritable with bids for interaction
  - Shows disorganization with social bids
  - Looks away during face to face encounters







## Interaction with Others Reflective Questions

What happens when you and your baby are together?

Tell me about what you and your baby do together. How does your baby react to different sounds, sights, types of touch, movement, and how busy the environment is?

How does your baby let you know he/she is calm and content?

What changes have you seen in the way your baby is with other people?

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