

Expanding Horizons

National Institute on Infant and Early Mental Health

April 27th – 28th, 2023

Call for Papers

Overview

The IEMHP Expanding Horizons National Institute on Infant and Early Mental Health invites practitioners, researchers and communities to submit proposals and participate in a collaborative process that aims to increase competency, confidence and capacity. Through this Institute, participants will have the opportunity to build relationships across disciplines, geography and sectors. The Institute has a long-standing tradition of promoting evidence-based programs and practices, emerging research, and the translation of the science supporting infant and early mental health into meaningful information and strategies for practitioners to embed into their own practice with families prenatal to age five.

The Institute's structure and organization is based on IEMHP's [Competency Framework](#) and [Competencies Checklist](#), which highlights the importance of the rich and diverse streams of knowledge and skills that are essential when working with infants, young children and their families. All practitioners will benefit from this event which will showcase promising and emerging practices in the field of infant and early mental health and family wellness. Discussions and presentation topics will include research, programs, services, and supports that speak to how infant and early mental health is embedded in foundational, promotional, preventative, early intervention and treatment practices and settings.

Practitioners can expect to leave the Institute having a better understanding of:

- what factors influence and infant and early mental health promotion;
- how to consider effective and innovative evidence-based research, practices, programs, resources and tools into their practice and;
- how to incorporate and advocate for existing and new knowledge into policy and practice.

This unique and interdisciplinary event offers practitioners, researchers, and communities the opportunity to promote and celebrate their own work, while sharing and learning from others. The call for papers is now open and submissions are due by end of day, September 19th, 2022. Please see submission details below.

This interdisciplinary learning event is for practitioners whose work is focused on the care and well-being of infants and young children and their families across Canada and internationally, working in settings such as, but not limited to:

- Children's mental health/ psychiatry
- Infant and child development
- Health care (nursing, family medicine, pediatrics)
- Public health and policy
- Early childhood education, learning and care
- Pre- & Post-natal programs
- Early intervention
- Child protection
- CAPC/CPNP
- Aboriginal Head Start programs
- Family resource centres
- Post-secondary education social policy and advocacy

Submission Requirements

Submission Deadline: September 19th, 2022

Submission Forms: [2023 Expanding Horizons Submission Package](#)

Submit Proposal to: iemhp.expandinghorizons@sickkids.ca

Submission Acceptance: Notifications of acceptance to be sent out mid-October

Please Note:

- No honoraria, accommodation, travel or other expenses are covered for presenters.
- Presenters will receive a significant discount towards registration, however, all concurrent session presenters are expected to register and pay the appropriate fees.

Submissions are invited for 90 Minute Concurrent Session Presentations to be delivered in person on April 27th or 28th, 2023 as a:

- **Paper** (research, evaluation);
- **Workshop** (emerging practices, programs);
- **and/or Thematic Symposium** (collaborative presentations)

Sessions should include a formal presentation and/ or interactive learning activities and adequate time for audience participation (at least 15 minutes), as well as supporting resources of no more than 15 pages.

Submissions must address **at least one** of the following [Competency Framework](#) areas:

	<p>FOUNDATIONAL Integral topics such as child development, brain development, attachment, family- centred practice, risk and resilience, cultural humility.</p>
	<p>PROMOTION Universally accessible services, supports, and resources that encourage optimal early mental health and wellbeing during prenatal, infancy, toddlerhood, and early childhood periods through positive and culturally safe environments, experiences, and relationships.</p>
	<p>PREVENTION Services, supports, and resources which seek to increase support and protective factors, improve determinants of health, and mitigate risk factors and relational adversity that can influence a child's mental health and development.</p>
	<p>EARLY INTERVENTION Services, supports, and resources in response to one or more specific developmental, behavioral, or mental health concerns which aim to minimize risk and the development of further challenges through strengthening capacity within the child, caregiver, and relationship.</p>
	<p>TREATMENT Services, supports, and resources for an identified challenge or diagnosed condition that aims to reduce the intensity and improve developmental, mental health and/or behavioural outcomes.</p>

Please see the [Call for Papers Checklist and Instructions](#) for further details.