

Discussion of difference between Infant Family Specialist (Level II) and Infant Mental Health Specialist (Level III);

1. All endorsement applicants, regardless of level, should be working with infant mental health principles in mind.
2. Those who meet criteria for Level III are working with the relationship between the infant/toddler and his/her primary caregiver to explicitly address any unresolved separations, traumas and/or losses that may be affecting the emerging attachment relationship between a caregiver(s) and the infant/toddler.
3. The unresolved losses, or "ghosts" might be from the caregivers' own early childhood (ACE or adverse childhood experience), or may be more recent such as a difficult labor & delivery or a diagnosis of a chronic illness, delay, or disability for this infant/toddler.
4. The work that meets this criteria may be performed by professionals from a variety of disciplines, not only licensed mental health professionals. However, the applicant will need to have received the training necessary to provide this level of intervention AND receive RSC from a qualified professional about the intervention.
5. We acknowledge that it may be easier for a licensed mental health professional to find paid work in a program that provides this level of intervention. But professionals from other disciplines are not excluded from earning endorsement at Level III if they meet the criteria.
6. Not all families on an applicant's case load will be ready or for this intervention. Said another way, work on unresolved losses does not have to be explicit with every family with whom the applicant works. But, again, the applicant must have had the training and RSC that prepares them to provide that level of intervention when it is appropriate for a referred family.