



Healthy Relationships First

Strong first relationships for babies
and the adults who care for them



SOUTH CAROLINA
Infant Mental Health
ASSOCIATION



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Help children start strong.

The first five years of a baby's life are essential to their development and future well-being. Most importantly, the quality of their relationships with caregivers determines how they grow, learn and thrive.

At the SC Infant Mental Health Association, we work to ensure that children in South Carolina benefit from the strongest first relationships. By elevating professional practices in service to babies and providing supportive resources for caregivers, we're building a system of care that nurtures babies' social and emotional development.

It's how we help them flourish and shape who they'll become.



As a hub for healthy first relationships, we:

- Offer professional IECMH endorsement, certifications and training across all infant- and young child-serving disciplines and systems.
- Provide embedded access to highly trained specialists who mentor early childhood professionals
- Connect caregivers to the resources and professional services critical to babies' well-being
- Advocate for a connected system of care across the state to improve quality of life outcomes for infants

Infant and early childhood mental health.

Put simply, infant and early childhood mental health is healthy social and emotional development. Babies' first five years are filled with tremendous, rapid development. Their early experiences not only affect how their bodies and brains develop, but also drive their well-being and lifelong outcomes.

Strong infant mental health even influences how they will ultimately parent their child.

What we do.

SCIMHA is a collaborative multi-disciplinary membership association for all infant-, early childhood-, and family-serving professionals in South Carolina. We're committed to promoting racial equity and social justice through our mental health work, and we embed diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) principles into everything we do.





Safe Babies Court

Changing the trajectory for infants and toddlers in child welfare.

This collaborative approach ensures children ages 0-3 and their families within the child welfare system are embraced by a multidisciplinary support team and provided targeted and timely intervention and resources. This trauma-informed model centers infant mental health and supports the well-being of both child and parent. With proven outcomes of expedited permanency, Safe Babies Court reduces the number of days a child lingers in child welfare.



PEAR Network

Building competencies of the adults working with young children.

PEAR Network (Partners for Early Attuned Relationships) is a prevention-based program pairing a highly specialized early childhood mental health consultant with the adults who work with children (ages 0 to 5) to support them as they learn to form secure relationships, manage emotions and explore their environment, particularly child care centers.



Professional Development

In service to babies.

We're committed to advancing infant and early childhood mental health across the state. It's how we strengthen first relationships and help babies flourish.

From training and certifications to the endorsement credential that elevates IECMH competencies, we help infant- and family-serving professionals hone their skills and strengthen their expertise.



IECMH Clinical Services

**Babies don't come with a manual,
but we're here to help.**

We offer an array of trainings and certifications for infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) professionals as well as therapeutic treatment and classes for caregivers.

Our trainings are designed to provide professionals who diagnose and provide therapeutic treatment services with in-depth training in relationship-based, developmentally appropriate assessments and an introduction to IECMH clinical practice.

Interventions include: Circle of Security, Attachment Biobehavioral Catch Up, and Child-Parent Psychotherapy



South Carolina's gateway to raising healthy children.

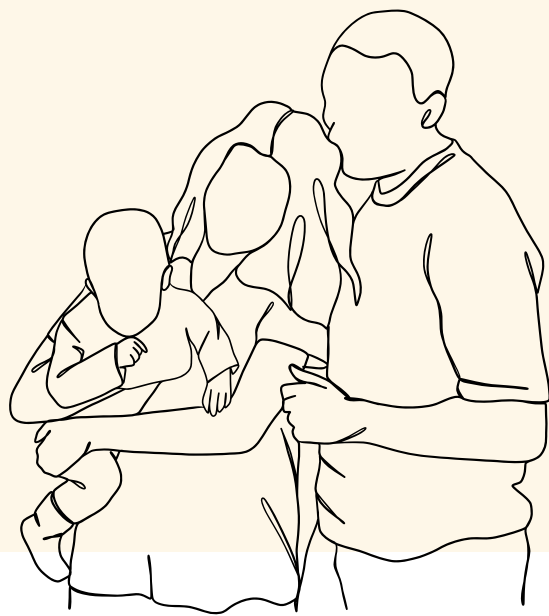
As the state's most comprehensive, healthy development resource hub for families of young children, Help Me Grow SC connects caregivers to the specialists, tools and services they need to support their child's behavior, health and learning.

Our care coordinators guide caregivers through the complicated network of services and supports available to children birth to age 5.



Every day infant and early childhood professionals work with babies and families to promote healthy development, repair relationships, and create a solid foundation for lifelong mental health. It's difficult and emotional work, and it's why SCIMHA was founded — to support you in this critical endeavor.

Kerrie Schnake, SCIMHA CEO



Want to know more?

Contact us at:

833-472-4642

admin@scimha.org

www.scimha.org

