



**nvaiecmh**  
Nevada Association for Infant  
& Early Childhood Mental Health

Giving children roots to  
grow and wings to fly.

## APRIL 2024 NEWS

April is a month with a variety of awareness events and causes. At the Association, we have spent some time talking about Child Abuse Prevention and Autism Awareness.

This month's newsletter is full of useful information. Our ECHO series is up and running. We added an extra orientation session by popular request so you can jump right in with us. We are also excited for Nevada's Early Childhood System's successful launch of First 5 Nevada - a new website with lots of resources and links for families with young children. This month, we are highlighting some of the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Core Competencies.

If you haven't yet taken a moment to join the Association, please do so! We are waiving all Membership Fees in 2024. Association staff are busy this month out and about at conferences and training. If you see us, stop by and say hello!

Jacquelyn Kleinedler, MFT, LADC  
NV-AIECMH Executive Director

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[WWW.NVAIECMH.ORG](http://WWW.NVAIECMH.ORG)

# NV-AIECMH ECHO SERIES

## ALL TEACH - ALL LEARN



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***NV-AIECMH is excited to bring ECHO to the IECMH professionals of Nevada!***

Please join us to learn about Project ECHO, how to register in the iECHO system, and how this learning community can support the implementation of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health best practices in the field.

ECHO sessions will be available on a biweekly basis starting in **April 2024** for all professionals who work with babies, very young children and their families, such as clinicians, home visitors, early childhood educators, and child welfare workers.

To learn more about ECHO, please join us for this final interest session:

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

**11am-12pm PST**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

Follow  
NV-AIECMH on  
social media!



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# IECMH ECHO SESSIONS



## APRIL 2024

Wednesday April 17, 2024	12:00 pm PST	Intro to IECMH Endorsement®
Join us as Amber Keeler, Workforce Development Specialist at the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health, explains the value of achieving Endorsement in Infant and/or Early Childhood Mental Health. Learn about the pathways to Endorsement and how joining the growing numbers of endorsed professionals across the world is good for the babies, young children, and families we serve.		



### Questions?

- Kate Keese  
kkeese@alliedbehavior.com
- Tracey Tapiz  
ttapiz@nvaiecmh.org

**Helpful Tip:** The link for ECHO sessions will be sent to your inbox 60 minutes before each session starts. We encourage to create a meeting hold on your calendar.

NV-AIECMH welcomes Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health professionals including therapists, educators, policy makers, home visitors, pediatricians, pediatric nurses and more!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us each month on the **1st Tuesday @ 11am** and **3rd Wednesday @ 12pm**.



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# IECMH ECHO SESSIONS: MAY 2024



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Nevada Association for Infant  
& Early Childhood Mental Health



## Questions?

- Kate Keese  
kkeese@alliedbehavior.com
- Tracey Tapiz  
ttapiz@nvaiecmh.org

**Helpful Tips:** The link for ECHO sessions will appear in your inbox 30 minutes before the session start time. We encourage to create a meeting hold on your calendar.

<b>Tuesday, May 7, 2024</b>	<b>11:00 am PST</b>	<b>Intro to IECMH [Infant &amp; Early Childhood Mental Health</b>
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Join us as Annie Beach, LCSW, IECMH-E, PMH-C, introduces us to the field of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. Annie will share information about the history and foundational concepts and will explore where the field is today. Be with us for an exciting look into the past, present, and future of IECMH.

<b>Wednesday, May 15, 2024</b>	<b>12:00 pm PST</b>	<b>Brain Development in Infant &amp; Early Childhood</b>
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Join us as Jennifer Drake-Croft, MSSW, IECMH-E, walks us through infant and early childhood brain development. We'll explore why Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are so detrimental to brain development and the resilience provided by Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs).

*Each presentation will be followed by time for all participants to introduce themselves, to ask questions of the group and to share their experiences and wisdom, as we develop and strengthen our community of support.*

Nevada welcomes Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health professionals including therapists, educators, policy makers, home visitors, pediatricians, pediatric nurses and more!



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**JUST LAUNCHED!!**



**First 5 Nevada is your connection to the state's *entire* Early Childhood System**

Nevada's Early Childhood System includes all the programs and services that young kids and their families need to be healthy and grow to their fullest potential. This system consists of an entire network of resources to help provide our kids with everything they need for a strong start in life. [www.first5nevada.org](http://www.first5nevada.org)

## **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

The Children's Bureau has partnered with colleagues in the Administration on Children and Families, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevent Child Abuse America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics to discuss the important role we all have in promoting positive childhood experiences to promote healthy, thriving children. Join them on Tuesday, April 23rd for a conversation about how communities can support families to create bright futures for all children.

**[Register online](#)**  
**[HERE](#)**

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Check our website calendar of events for upcoming NVAIECMH events and trainings, as well as community partners and other State AIMHS. Members can also access events through InfoHub.

If you would like to submit an event or training, email Engagement Coordinator Tracey Tapiz at: [ttapiz@nvaiecmh.org](mailto:ttapiz@nvaiecmh.org)

**LIVE**

## ECHO LEARNING



**nvaiecmh**  
Nevada Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

JOIN US FOR NEW TOPICS EACH MONTH!

FIRST TUESDAY | 11 am PACIFIC

THIRD WEDNESDAY | 12 pm PACIFIC

[Register Now](#) [www.nvaiecmh.org/events](http://www.nvaiecmh.org/events)

## VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- NV-AIECMH MEMBERSHIP
- IECMH ENDORSEMENT®



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Nevada Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

Join virtual drop-in Office Hours to talk with staff about the Association, learn about the journey to Endorsement®, and to explore membership. No registration required.

## Office Hours



**FRI APR 19:** 10am - 11am  
**MON APR 22:** 9am - 10am  
**TUE APR 30:** 8am - 9am  
**FRI MAY 17:** 11am - 12pm  
**THUR MAY 30:** 9am-9am

**Join Zoom via this LINK**  
Meeting ID: 657 966 9455  
Passcode: E0M534



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 2024

**WED  
17**

**NV-AIECMH ECHO SESSION:  
INTRO TO IECMH ENDORSEMENT**  
Register online [HERE](#)

**TUE  
23**

**NV-AIECMH ECHO SERIES  
INTEREST SESSION**  
Register online [HERE](#)

**MON  
29**

**CIRCLE OF SECURITY  
PARENTING SERIES, RENO**  
Register online [HERE](#)

MAY 2024

**TUE  
7**

**NV-AIECMH ECHO SESSION:  
ABOUT IECMH & IECMH CONSULTING**  
Register online [HERE](#)

**WED  
15**

**NV-AIECMH ECHO SERIES:  
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN  
INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
Register online [HERE](#)

For more events & information: [www.nvaiecmh.org/events](http://www.nvaiecmh.org/events)

# IECMH COMPETENCIES

The infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) competency guidelines include a broad range of skills and knowledge that professionals use to support the social, emotional, and relational wellbeing of infants, toddlers, young children and their families. We envision that Nevada professionals demonstrate these competencies in action in the following ways:

- **Self-Awareness** is a fundamental practice in IECMH that shapes our interactions and interventions. Understanding of our own thoughts, feelings, and reactions is crucial when working with infants and young children who are highly attuned to *our* emotional reactions and behaviors. When we are self-aware, we are able to recognize our own biases, emotions, and triggers, which then fosters empathetic, patient, and understanding responses. This awareness helps us be attuned and responsive in our interactions, building meaningful connections and promoting positive outcomes for children and families.
- **Cultural Humility** is a commitment to lifelong learning and reflection on our cultural beliefs and biases. Culturally humble IECMH professionals recognize the unique cultural perspectives of each child and family, shaping their experiences and interactions. They actively seek to learn from and collaborate with families, valuing their cultural practices and beliefs. By engaging in self-reflection and challenging assumptions, these professionals create inclusive environments of meaningful connection where all children and families feel respected and valued.
- **Family Relationships & Dynamics** shape a child's development. By promoting secure attachments and supporting positive parent-child interactions, IECMH professionals can help lay the foundation for healthy relationship development in the child's life. Building trusting relationships with families, actively listening to their needs, and providing tailored support and resources strengthen family bonds and create a positive environment for the child's growth and well-being.

Learn more about the IECMH Competency Guidelines [HERE](#).



NV Division of Children & Family Services has funded a NEW 4-part learning series for Child Welfare professionals to learn about IECMH. Watch for more info soon!



# INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH ENDORSEMENT®

IECMH Endorsement® is an internationally-recognized credential that highlights and verifies that professionals have specialized training and experience in culturally responsive and relationship-based practice.

The Endorsement categories are defined by the way you work with or on behalf of the IECMH population. Most categories include professionals from a variety of work settings, and each scope of practice consists of people newer to the field, people who have a lifetime of experience, and people who are leaders in the field.

This month, we highlight the **Family Specialist** Endorsement for those who work in the **Prevention** field. To learn more about all categories, join us at **Office Hours** - free and online. Dates and details available at [www.nvaiecmh.org/events](http://www.nvaiecmh.org/events).



## PROMOTION

### SCOPE OF WORK

Those who prevent barriers to positive mental health development in young children by giving attention to the primary adult relationships around that child.



## PREVENTION

### WHO DOES THIS WORK?

Early Head Start  
Early Intervention Provider  
Home Visitor [PAT. HFA. NFP.]  
Infant/Toddler Coach  
Mental Health Consultation  
Part C  
PT/OT



## CLINICAL INTERVENTION

### IECMH IN ACTION

Help parents/caregivers "see" the infant/young child as a person by working with the infant/young child and caregiver together to assess social emotional needs, provide preventative support, and connect families to additional services.



## LEADERSHIP

### ENDORSEMENT CATEGORY

Family Specialist



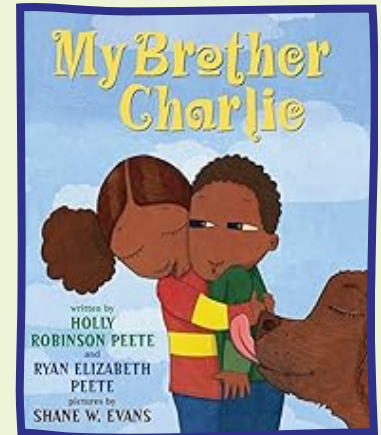
## REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION / CONSULTATION

## WHAT WE'RE READING

### My Brother Charlie

by Holly Robinson Peete

From bestselling author and actress Holly Robinson Peete, this heartwarming story is based on Holly's son. It provides a valuable perspective on the experiences of individuals with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and their families, promoting acceptance, understanding, and compassion. The author also shares her family's personal journey with autism and offers resources for further reading and support.

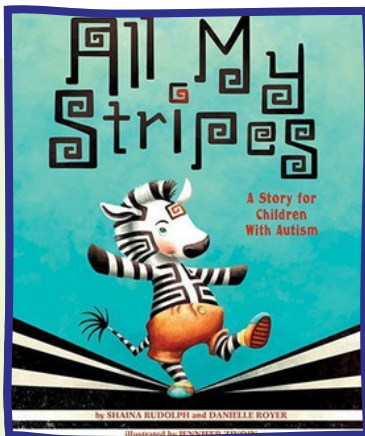


## FOR READING TOGETHER

### All My Stripes

by Shaine Rudolph & Danielle Royer

A helpful story for kids with autism spectrum disorders as they follow a young zebra who learns to understand how he is different from the rest of his classmates. It provides a glimpse into a day in the life of a young, smart, caring, honest, and curious zebra named Zane.

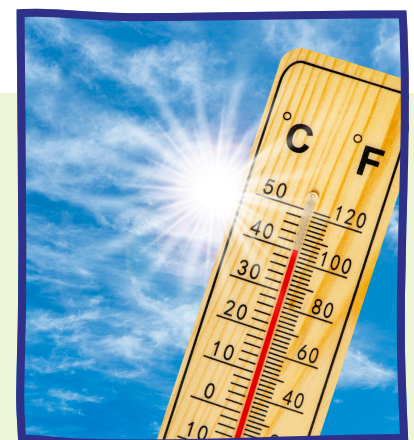


## RESEARCH SAYS

### EXTREME HEAT AFFECTS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

by Center on the Developing Child - Harvard University

Temperatures are rising across the U.S. and around the world and record-setting heat waves are occurring more often and lasting longer than ever before. Effects of heat during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood are significant, including low birth weight and prematurity, learning loss during the school years, heat-related illness, and even death. Find the full Policy in Action on ways of minimizing the effects of heat on children at: [developingchild.harvard.edu/heat-paper](https://developingchild.harvard.edu/heat-paper).



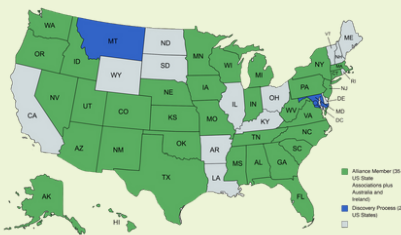
# GROW WITH US!

The Association is proud to offer membership at no-cost to all Nevada professionals in 2024! NV-AIECMH is committed to supporting your professional growth and development as you make a meaningful impact in the lives of infants, young children, and families.

[JOIN HERE](#)



# ABOUT NV-AIECMH



Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

NV-AIECMH is the only statewide professional association that supports, trains, and connects the cross-system workforce that supports and promotes the healthy social emotional development of Nevada's children from the prenatal period through age six.

Nevada is one of **35** state associations in the U.S. to provide

the Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health®. Each association is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health. Learn more about the Alliance [HERE](#).