

Competency Guidelines & Endorsement[®] Conversation FAQs

<p>What are the Competency Guidelines[®], and why are they important in our work?</p>	<p>The Competency Guidelines[®] outline the essential knowledge, skills, and practices that infant and early childhood professionals need to ensure that everyone working in this field is equipped to support the healthy growth and development of infants and young children, in the context of family, community, and culture.</p>
<p>How does getting Endorsed show that a professional is skilled and knowledgeable?</p>	<p>Getting Endorsed means that a professional has acquired the specific skills, knowledge, and practices outlined in the Competency Guidelines[®]. It shows that they have the required education, training, and experience to provide high-quality IECMH services, demonstrating their expertise and commitment to best practices. https://vaimh.myeasy.org/competency-guidelines</p>
<p>What are the first steps someone should take if they want to get Endorsed?</p>	<p>To start the Endorsement process, become a member of the Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health (VAIMH). https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership Then, review the Competency Guidelines to understand the framework the Endorsement captures.</p>
<p>How do the Competency Guidelines[®] help us meet the needs of infants, young children, and families?</p>	<p>They provide a framework for understanding the developmental, emotional, and relational needs of infants, young children, and their families. By following these guidelines, professionals can offer support that is informed by best practices and tailored to the unique needs of each child and family.</p>
<p>Why is it important to follow the Competency Guidelines[®] and aim for Endorsement in our field?</p>	<p>Following the Competency Guidelines[®] and aiming for Endorsement ensures that professionals maintain high standards of practice. It also helps build a more qualified and consistent IECMH workforce, which ultimately leads to better outcomes for children and families.</p>

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<p>How does Reflective Supervision / Consultation help in the Endorsement process?</p>	<p>Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RS/C) provides professionals with regular opportunities to reflect on the emotional experiences evoked in this work, receive guidance, and deepen understanding of their practice. It is a crucial support for the IECMH workforce, supporting Endorsement requirements and professional development.</p>
<p>What benefits do professionals gain by being Endorsed in their career?</p>	<p>Being Endorsed can enhance a professional's credibility and recognition in the field. It can provide access to a network of peers. Holding Endorsement demonstrates a commitment to maintaining high standards of practice in IECMH.</p>
<p>What are some misunderstandings people might have about the Competency Guidelines[®] and Endorsement?</p>	<p>Some people might think that Endorsement is only for seasoned professionals, or that it's too difficult to achieve. In reality, the process is designed to support all levels of professionals and the Competency Guidelines[®] can help individuals identify what they might need to grow in their practice and career.</p>
<p>What skills/knowledge areas are outlined in the Competency Guidelines[®]?</p>	<p>The Competency Guidelines[®] are comprised of 8 areas of expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical Foundations • Law, Regulation, and Agency Policy • Systems Expertise • Direct Service Skills • Working with Others • Communicating • Thinking • Reflection
<p>How can I learn more?</p>	<p>Visit the VAIMH website: https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-endorsement-overview</p> <p>Contact vaendorsement@vcu.edu.</p>