

The Harris Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute

Several decades of research have clearly demonstrated the importance of a child's earliest years. Most importantly, the relationships formed with parents and caregivers during this time establish the foundation for all future development – intellectual, social, emotional, physical and behavioral.

Research has also shown that behavioral and mental health problems can emerge in infants, toddlers and preschoolers. If left undiagnosed and untreated, resulting problems can include school failure, child abuse, delinquency, and mental illness.

The Harris Institute Programs

Increased recognition of young children's critical and unique needs has revealed a severe shortage of professionals knowledgeable in this field. As one of a handful of prestigious Harris programs in the country, and the only one in the Southwest, the Harris Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Training Institute seeks to fill this knowledge gap through state-of-the-art training programs.

Programs are designed for professionals from varied disciplines including:

- Mental health clinicians
- Judicial and law enforcement professionals
- Nurses and medical providers
- Child Protective Services providers
- Preschool and child care providers
- Early interventionists
- Human service providers
- Policy makers and administrators

Infant/Family Clinical Practice Certificate

Designed for mental health clinicians and graduate students, this two-year program builds on the Infant/Family Studies coursework adding a mental health emphasis. Topics include:

- Infant mental health theory and practice
- Assessment using the DC:03R diagnostic system for infants and toddlers
- Infant-parent psychotherapy
- Direct practice with intensive, reflective consultation

Infant/Family Studies Certificate

This one-year program is designed for professionals whose work directly or indirectly impacts infants and toddlers. Coursework, observation and consultation prepare participants to implement the principles of infant social and emotional development in their everyday work.

Topic areas include the influence of early development and relationships on mental health, and employing a multidisciplinary child and family team approach to services.

Consultation

Consultation and technical assistance is provided to individuals and organizations nationally and internationally.

A Distinguished Faculty

The Harris Institute faculty is recognized for its expertise in infant and early childhood mental health. Faculty members, as well as nationally recognized visiting scholars, bring a wealth of academic, training and direct practice experience to the program.

For additional information contact harrisinstitute@swhd.org or 602-200-0434 ext. 4050



*The Harris Institute is a program of Southwest Human Development's
Arizona Institute for Early Childhood Development*