

COMPETENCY DETAILS

INFANT FAMILY ASSOCIATE (IFA)

1. Theoretical Foundations

Knowledge Areas:

- pregnancy and early parenthood
- infant/young child development and behavior
- infant/young child and family-centered practice
- relationship-focused practice
- family relationships and dynamics
- attachment, separation, trauma, grief, and loss
- cultural competence

As Demonstrated by:

For infants, young children, and families referred and enrolled for services:

- Informally (and in some cases, formally) observes and assesses the infant or young child, parent, and their relationship to identify landmarks of typical child development; behavior; and healthy, secure relationships
- Supports and reinforces parent's ability to seek appropriate care during pregnancy
- Supports and reinforces each parent's strengths, emerging parenting competencies, and positive parent-infant/young child interactions
- Demonstrates awareness of conditions that optimize early infant brain development
- Recognizes conditions that require the assistance of other service providers and refers these situations to the supervisor
- Shares with families an understanding of infant and family relationship development
- Applies understanding of cultural competence to communicate effectively, establish positive relationships with families, and demonstrate respect for the uniqueness of each client family's culture

