

2022-2023
Impact Report

Taking Action

Strengthening Infant and Early Mental Health



Infant and Early Mental
Health Promotion
IEMHP

A program of

SickKids[®]



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Opening Messages



Dr. Chaya Kulkarni

**Director of Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP),
The Hospital for Sick Children**

The science supporting the importance of infant and early mental health and its impact on lifelong outcomes is robust and indisputable. It is further enhanced when we recognize and acknowledge the lived experiences of practitioners and families, and lean on both to guide our work. With this in mind, 2022-23 was a hallmark year for IEMHP Using the [Infant and Early Mental Health Core Components](#), which reflect the importance of the science of early mental health, implementation science and lived experiences, our team, with many of its partners, embarked on a journey to strengthen, inform and influence practices, programs, resources and tools, policies and research initiatives as they relate to infant and early mental health.

All of IEMHP's work during the past year embraced with passion our commitment to:

- The relationships we have with our partners;
- The actioning of Truth and Reconciliation recommendations;
- Equity, diversity and inclusion for both families and practitioners in this space; and
- Using implementation science to action all we know about infant and early mental health

Our recognition of the importance of the above is reflected in every initiative undertaken by IEMHP. This has led to the development and delivery of several exciting and impactful initiatives in 2022-23 that we will highlight in this report. Each project we share with you here has affected children, families, communities and practitioners in meaningful ways. *Natural Helpers for the Children*, created in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Child & Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS), took the science of infant and early mental health and made it accessible to anyone in a community who is passionate about the wellbeing of young children. *Nurturing the Seed* expanded program sites and also began connecting practitioners from different sites with each other so they could share their experiences. Additionally, we launched our first web-based application, The Nurturing the Seed App, and it is already changing how practitioners support young children who face long waitlists for assessments and services. Last but not least, our training and coaching model creates a safe place to share and learn from each other by embracing the value of the experiences practitioners are having as they strive to strengthen their own practice.

As you read this impact report, we know many of you will see yourselves in our work.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chaya Kulkarni".



Kelly McMillen

Director, Learning Institute, The Hospital for Sick Children

As the Executive Director of the Learning Institute at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), I have the privilege of working with our Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) team. This phenomenal group inspires me every day with their dedication and passion for working with practitioners and communities to translate and promote the science of early mental health into practice with families. We couldn't do this work without our incredible network of partners within SickKids, across Canada, and around the world. You are instrumental in everything we do, and we are deeply grateful for the wisdom, insights, and expertise that you share with us and others involved in advancing this important work.

This past year there was lots to celebrate. Highlights are outlined in this report and include working with communities to create pathways for infant and early mental health services and supports, training and coaching, launching the *2022 Lecture Series: Laying the Path for Lifelong Wellness*, updating and streamlining the Nurturing the Seed implementation and evaluation, launching the Nurturing the Seed app, co-creating the Natural Helpers program, and much more!

There is still lots of work to do but also so much to be excited about. We look forward to continuing this journey together!

K. McMillen



Lennox Huang

**Chief Medical Officer,
Vice-President Education, Medical and Academic Affairs,
The Hospital for Sick Children**

My introduction to infant and early mental health took place over three decades ago when I pursued an undergraduate major in child psychology, and I revisited it again during my paediatric residency training. I could not have predicted coming back to the field so many years later to see first-hand the tremendous impact of the SickKids IEMHP team as outlined in this report.

As a pediatrician and a father, I know that attention to the health of our youngest children and their families has an outsized impact on their future and on society as a whole. In my executive role as Chief Medical Officer and VP of Education, I am always looking to guide teams to align and harmonize their work with both the mission and strategic priorities of SickKids. The work of the IEMHP team is exemplary in partnership work, championing equity and diversity, and unleashing the talents of our people – all towards a goal of healthier children, a better world.

L. Huang

What is Infant and Early Mental Health

Infant and early mental health, also referred to as social-emotional development, is the evolving capacity of a child, from infancy to the age of 6, to express and regulate their emotions, form close and secure relationships, and explore their environment. The early years are a period of profound brain development, with over 1 million neural connections being made each second. Experiences during this time influence these connections and, thus, shape our brains, our relationships, and the way we see the world. Notably, the relationship young children have with their caregivers is the most influential as it greatly impacts a child's development and their capacity to recover when faced with challenges.

Infant and early mental health practice refers to the *promotion* of optimal development and wellbeing in infants and young children, the *prevention* of difficulties, and appropriate *intervention* when children are at risk of or have identified problems. The goal of infant and early mental health services is to ensure optimal child outcomes in terms of a sense of security and self-esteem, and the ability to form satisfying relationships, to engage with the world, to learn, problem-solve and cope, and to continue positive development throughout life. Infant and early mental health practice also strives to promote stable and supportive families and communities.



About IEMHP

Vision

All children, prenatal to age 6, have the opportunity to optimize their mental health and wellbeing.

Mission

Optimizing infant and early mental health across Canada and around the world.

Values

Collaboration – We recognize it takes a village to bring about change, and we place partnerships at the centre of all that we do.

Inclusion, Diversity & Equity – We strive to embody the diversity of the people in Canada into our work so that it supports all in a meaningful way.

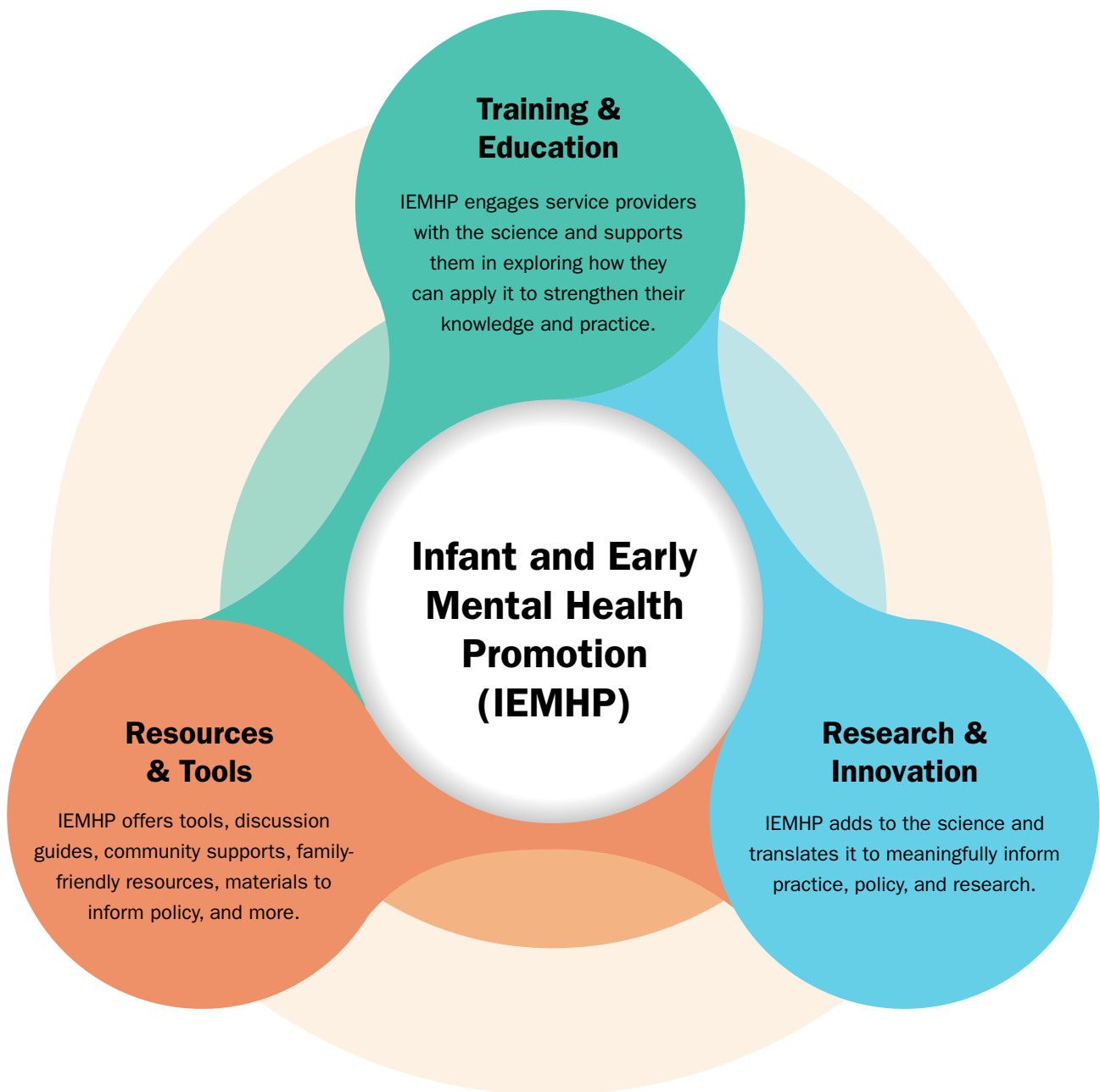
Integrity – We are trustworthy and transparent. We act responsibly to ensure we are a dependable and respectful service and partner.

Quality & Innovation – We have a culture of continuous learning which allows us to think outside the box to ensure our evidence-based work is as effective as it can be and meets the highest standards of excellence.

Sustainability – Our approach ensures that the work we undertake can be sustained beyond any short-term funding or partnership.

Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) is a program of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto which offers a relationship-based, evidence-informed approach to strengthening best practices in infant and early mental health, for practitioners and decision makers. We work across Canada with service providers to enhance knowledge and programs in support of infants, young children and their families. IEMHP has trained thousands of practitioners from across the country and around the world, equipping them with tools to help embed the science of infant and early mental health into their work. We also engage in cultivating relationships with community-level, national and international experts, leaders, and governing bodies.

Numerous studies describe the significant impact early experiences have on physical health, mental wellbeing, and life opportunities. However, regardless of the growing knowledge surrounding these crucial years, and of the evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of early prevention and intervention efforts, infant and early mental health has been notably absent from conversations regarding child health in Canada. Since its inception, IEMHP has challenged this narrative and grown to become Canada’s leading voice on infant and early mental health, influencing practice and policy through training and research.



What We Accomplished in 2022-23

“Since its inception, IEMHP has advanced the promotion of infant and early mental health through partnerships with communities, training of professionals, development of resources, and advocacy for the rights and well-being of our youngest. While IEMHP has grown tremendously in scope and breadth, its activities in 2022-2023 demonstrate that it has not wavered from its fundamental commitments to children and their families. In 2022-2023, IEMHP expanded and deepened its partnerships with Indigenous communities by co-creating Natural Helpers for the Children and launching the Nurturing the Seed mobile app. The 2022 Lecture Series: Laying the Path for Lifelong Wellness presented a workshop series by a highly-esteemed international roster of leading early mental health professionals. Finally, the training and coaching of practitioners working with families fosters a community of sharing, support and learning. It has been another year of important work and successful accomplishments. Looking forward to all that is yet to come!”

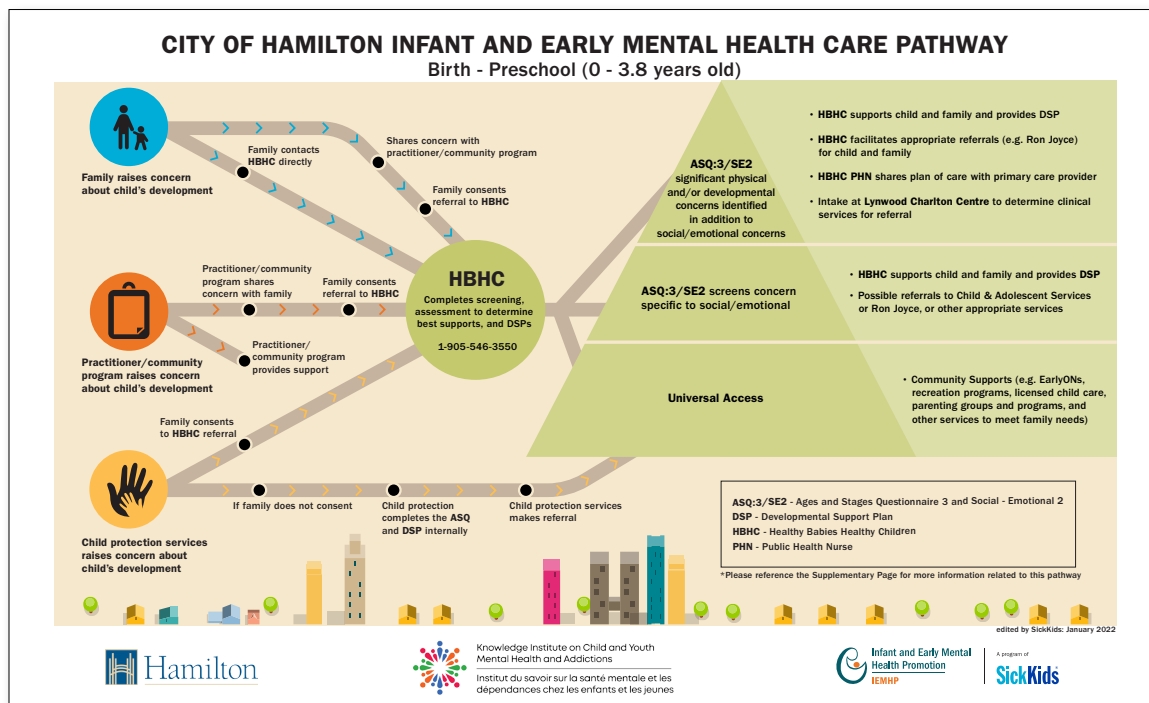
Margaret Leslie
Director, Child and Family Services
Mothercraft

Working with Communities to Create Pathways for Infant and Early Mental Health Services and Supports

In 2022-23, in partnership with the Knowledge Institute for Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions and guided by implementation science, IEMHP continued to work with 3 Ontario communities to create systems of Care Pathways for infant and early mental health supports and services. Care pathways help families and practitioners engage with the appropriate mental health services in a timely way. Collaborating with partners in Hamilton, Simcoe and Hastings Prince Edward County, 2022-23 was the culmination of 3 years of hard work, with maps created and successfully implemented in Hamilton and Simcoe. In Hastings Prince Edward County, maps have been created and final reviews are underway. Below is an example of one of the system maps – you can learn more about this work on our [site](#).

The culmination of this work is a milestone in infant and early mental health. Research is conclusive, repeatedly reinforcing the fact that early mental health experiences impact all aspects of life throughout the lifespan. Yet, most communities offer very limited infant and early mental health services. The creation of the maps in our partner communities also meant that over 400 practitioners in several systems, including public health, education, child protection and children’s mental health, had the opportunity to participate in training on infant and early mental health. Moving forward, IEMHP and the Knowledge Institute will continue to provide training and support to the pilot communities as they move ahead with implementation and capacity building.

In addition to the work with our pilot sites, IEMHP was [successful in securing](#) a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Mental Health in the Early Years Implementation Science grant to expand the pathways work. As such, we will be inviting more partners to be part of this initiative, with a focus on communities that have limited resources to undertake this important work. It is our intention to train many more practitioners and enhance the capacity of all of our partner communities to provide infant and early mental health services.



Training & Coaching

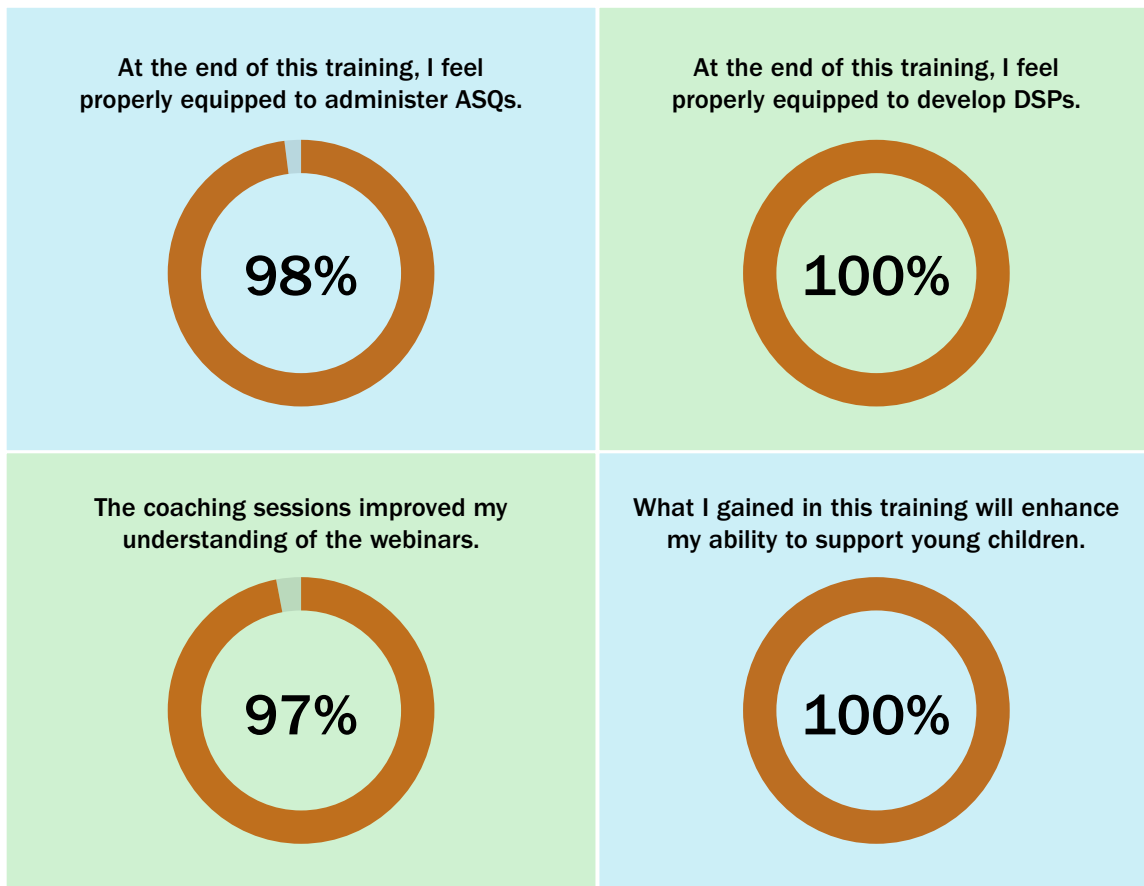
During the pandemic, IEMHP had moved all training to an online format to ensure ongoing access for all. In 2022, post-pandemic, some communities continued to prefer the virtual access offered, while others were ready to gather in person once again. Since the fall of that year, the IEMHP team has resumed traveling to communities across Canada to deliver our most popular offering of Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQs) and Developmental Support Plans (DSPs) training. What is crucial to us is that we are now able to offer a variety of delivery options ranging from 100% virtual training to hybrid models that include some virtual training and some in-person. This approach has increased access to our training for many which was a milestone for us at IEMHP.

Our online offering of the ASQs and the DSPs has also allowed us to extend “open-call” training to individuals. Participants could come to a training either as a new staff member of a team that has already completed an agency training with IEMHP, or as someone who wants to take the training


for their own learning and professional development. This is all in an effort to increase access to learning opportunities for those who are working with the 0-6 population.

This year, we also took time to reflect on how information is best retained. A key focus for our training team was putting greater emphasis on the coaching component of our training and taking a fresh look at our coaching model. IEMHP Coaching Connect is a mandatory component of our training offerings and consists of coaching sessions that occur 3, 6 and 9 months post-training with the goal of reinforcing the learning that took place during the training. This format has proven to provide an opportunity for valuable discussions and coaching about implementation – what works and what can be challenging at the ground level, and ways to overcome practical barriers when we try to move the science into practice. During these coaching sessions, a participant shares a case study which is then discussed as a group, with the guidance of the coach, in order to consider all variables and possible solutions, and then create a DSP together. Coaching Connect is also an opportunity for participants, who have begun implementing the training, to ask clarifying questions, pose suggestions, and gain confidence in embedding this work into their practice.

For more information about our training and coaching offerings, please visit the Learning Centre on our [website](#) or contact us at iemhp.learning@sickkids.ca.



In 2022-23

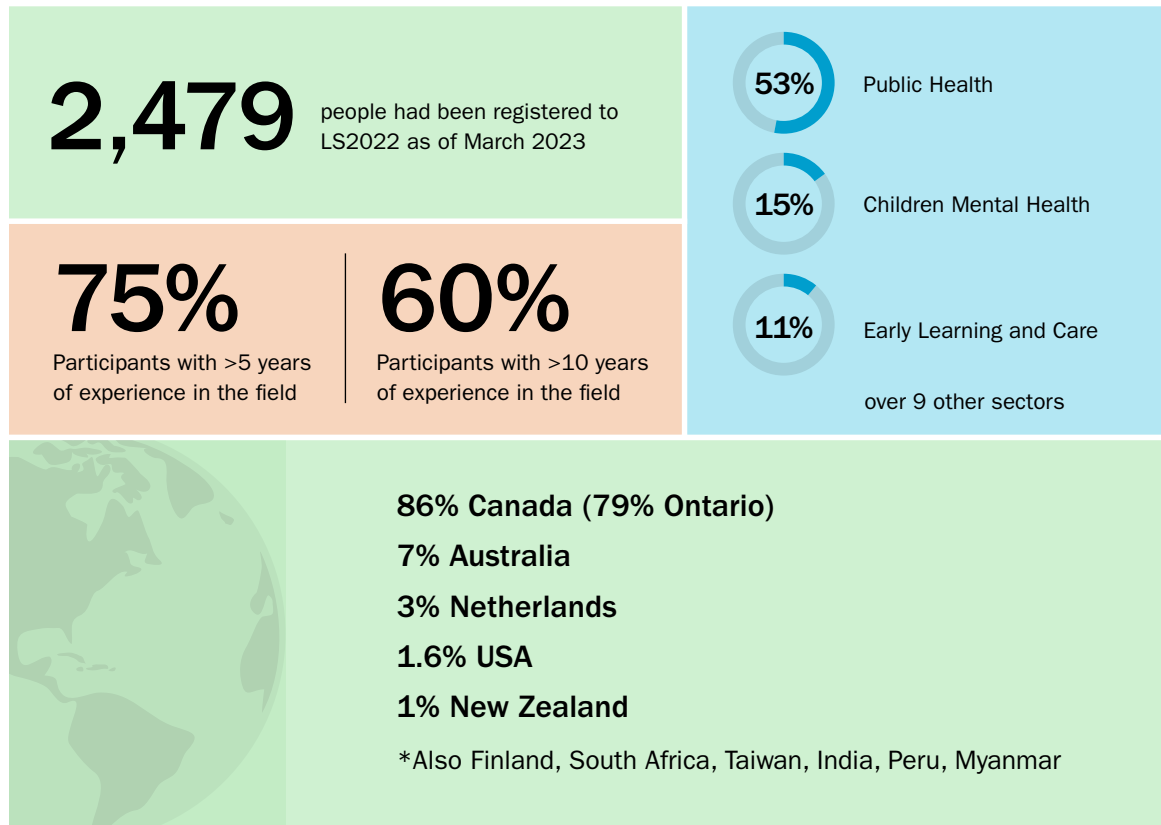
<p>1,806 people took at least one training on IEMHP's Learning Platform.</p> <hr/> <p>1,489 professionals registered for the free Introduction to IEMH training.</p> <hr/> <p>168 practitioners trained and supported by IEMHP in integrating ASQs and DSPs in their practice.</p>	<p><i>"The course was well put together. The explanation along with the demonstration of the scoring was great."</i></p> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 10px;">  <p>42%</p> </div> <p>Early Learning and Care</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 10px;">  <p>14%</p> </div> <p>Public Health</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-right: 10px;">  <p>11%</p> </div> <p>Children Mental Health</p> </div> <p>over 10 other sectors</p> </div>
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Lecture Series 2022



The popularity of *Lecture Series 2022: Laying the Path for Lifelong Wellness* continues to grow across the globe. First launched in 2022, this series was developed in partnership between IEMHP and the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH), and includes a wide range of topics from pioneers and experts in infant and early mental health from around the world. Currently available in English and French, we anticipate being able to offer transcripts in several other languages in the next year. For more information on the series, please visit our site [here](#).

Since the Lecture Series 2022 launch:



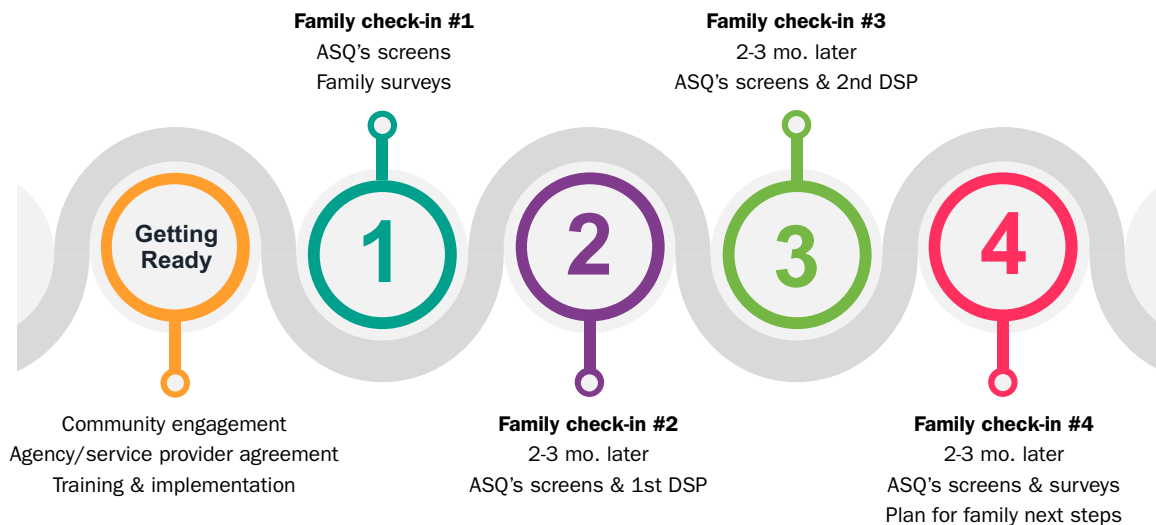
“The World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) and Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) have collaborated successfully in creating the webinar series “Laying the Path for Lifelong Wellness”. In WAIMH’s experience, the collaboration has been very productive, easygoing, and served the aims of both organizations in increasing awareness and knowledge on infant and early childhood mental health globally. The team at IEMHP has provided excellent organizational and technical skills in this collaboration, while WAIMH has been able to provide access to its network of international experts in the field. The end result has been a unique webinar series which has reached professionals from all parts of the world. The WAIMH Board has acknowledged the value of this collaboration and expressed its interest in future collaborations with IEMHP.”

Kaija Puura

Executive Director, WAIMH Central Office
 Professor of Child Psychiatry, Tampere University, Finland
 Chief Physician, Department of Child Psychiatry, Tampere University Hospital

Nurturing the Seed (NTS)

Nurturing the Seed (NTS) is a service model created specifically for Indigenous infants, toddlers, young children, and their parents and/or caregivers. The model is designed to guide and support service providers in their work with children, aged 0 to 6, and their families by utilizing the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQs) screening and IEMHP’s Developmental Support Plans (DSPs). NTS is especially beneficial in situations where there are long waitlists for services or no appropriate services, as it uses the science of infant and early mental health together with relevant tools and resources to support a child’s development as soon as a concern is raised. IEMHP worked on this model with Indigenous Elders and service providers along with other content experts in order to keep Indigenous culture, traditions, and ways of being and knowing front-and-center in the planning and design. Below is a process outline of how a community would get onboarded and a provider would work with a family using the NTS approach.



Developmental Domains of Infancy and Early Childhood



Communication
How I can understand you and talk to others



Fine Motor
How I Use My Hands



Gross Motor
How I Move My Body



Problem Solving
How I Explore and Figure Things Out



Social Emotional
How I Show My Feelings and Act Around Others

The Nurturing the Seed model also supports communities and agencies in working collaboratively, and is guided by and tailored to communities’ unique needs. Our NTS work includes training, coaching, resources, technology, and ongoing support for implementing and sustaining the model widely in communities. Over the past several years, Nurturing the Seed has evolved into a large, pan-Canadian project where we also measure the effectiveness of the model.

The 2022-23 fiscal was the first year of the Phase II funding IEMHP secured from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). With their support, we built on learnings from Phase I and focused on updating and streamlining the Nurturing the Seed implementation and evaluation approaches as well as the data collection tools and processes. We onboarded a new site from Ontario which brought the province total to 6 sites, and we continued working with 2 sites in Alberta and 2 – in Saskatchewan.

A newly introduced feature of IEMHP’s work with our NTS community partners is the Nurturing the Seed Forums. These virtual gatherings provide an opportunity for introductions and networking amongst all the project sites. Through these Forums, we envision that members from each community would exchange stories and learnings, and inspire us and each other as the project continues to grow and evolve – always influenced by the experiences of our partners. We plan to host these 3-hour Forums twice per year.

To follow the progress of this wide-scale, ground-breaking initiative, please visit the [Nurturing the Seed page](#) on IEMHP’s website.

“The Nurturing the Seed program fits hand in hand with my role as a KidsFirst North Home Visitor in Creighton, SK. We already do ASQ’s with families and the NTS study allows added support in the areas of development that children need, based on these ASQ scores. In our small community, there are no resources to refer families to unless they travel a far distance (which, for most of these families, isn’t an option), so having the Nurturing the Seed DSP’s gives me the tools to fill those gaps and provide supports to families in the areas required. Following up with families, continuing ASQ’s and checking in regularly – I can see the benefit of the NTS study not only on the child’s development but also the parent/child relationship.”

Tracy Brown
Home Visitor
KidsFirst North

“Living and working in an isolated Indigenous community in the North has both its rewards and challenges. One of the challenges we’ve faced is not having access to specialized services and supports in a timely manner – especially for our children. Working with IEMHP for the past 3 years has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me as a Prevention Coordinator of a First Nations Child and Family Services Agency. With their expertise, guidance and support, using their NTS model, we’ve begun trailblazing a way for families in the James Bay region to have access to local service providers that are equipped to monitor child development and work with parents to enhance the mental health of their little ones as soon as they are born - in a preventative way and/or when a concern is raised.

This journey we’ve embarked on with our friends at IEMHP is a hopeful one; one that is focused on family wellness through strengthening the parent-child attachment; one that is community-based by building upon our local capacity to support families; and one that is about a respectful and long-lasting partnership built in the spirit of reconciliation in action.

Meegwetch (thank you) IEMHP, we are deeply grateful for the relationship we have with each of you and are excited about the collaborative work ahead that we know will greatly influence the wellness of our babies, families, communities, and future generations.”

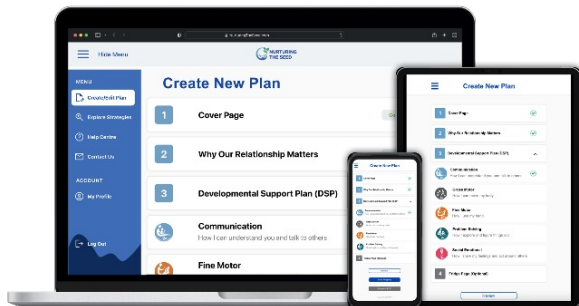
Brittany Biedermann
 Prevention Coordinator
 Child & Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS)

The NTS App

The past year has been filled with milestones and growth for our Nurturing the Seed App which allows practitioners to create Developmental Support Plans (DSPs) in a quick and easy manner using a web-based application. From our alpha release to the subsequent beta phase launched in February 2023, we are eager to share the insights and progress we have made.

We began our journey with 7 invaluable users during the alpha release. A significant achievement from our that phase was the unanimous approval – 100% of the alpha testers found our DSP Creation and Editing functions easy to use. Their early feedback paved the way for enhancements.

With the transition to our beta release, we were thrilled to see the user community expand to 34 NTS service providers across the country.



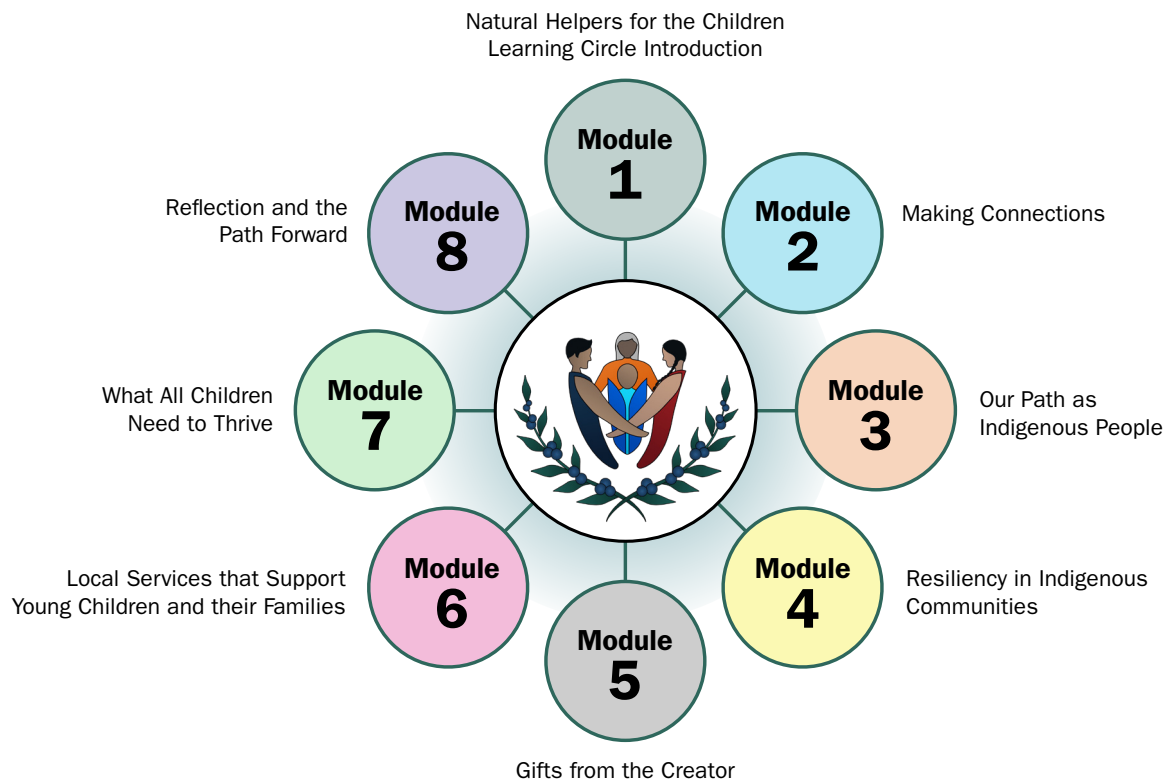
Our tester users have also highlighted the potential benefits of incorporating tutorials and FAQs in the app. These suggestions are now at the forefront of our work as we also continuously train service providers on how to successfully use the NTS App.

Natural Helpers for the Children Learning Circle

The Natural Helpers for the Children – Learning Circle (Natural Helpers) is an innovative program developed through a partnership between Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Child and Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS) in Moosonee/Moose Factory, ON, and Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP). In this project, local Indigenous leaders worked with non-Indigenous infant and early mental health experts, in the creation of a unique community-based approach to better supporting infants, young children and their families.

The goal of Natural Helpers is to build community capacity to positively influence prenatal, infant and early mental health. This is achieved through a series of facilitated conversations with engaged community members who share a common interest in better supporting local families with young children. The initiative acknowledges that the community as a whole plays an important role in supporting little ones, and that every individual has something valuable to contribute to their community and future generations. The program builds upon local strengths and capacity, recognizing how the traditional culture and ways of being and knowing are essential to the health and wellbeing of young children and their families.

This multi-part learning circle is designed with a broad audience in mind to include parents, caregivers, extended family, professionals, students, and any other interested community members. The modules are co-delivered by Indigenous community leaders and non-Indigenous IEMH experts. The pilot, which consisted of 12 Moosonee & Moose Factory participants, was made up of 8 modules:



Pilot participants took part in their own unique learning journey as they viewed videos and other resources related to infant and early mental health. They then engaged in weekly discussion sessions facilitated by content experts, community members and an Elder. Participants had the opportunity to watch, listen, learn, share, and reflect throughout the duration of the program. They often related the discussions to their own personal experiences and therefore, many topics resonated very deeply with them. The majority of participants expressed the desire for the learning circle to continue.

The program Elder and the community-based facilitator - both of whom helped develop the program from the very beginning - agreed Natural Helpers was a great success, and it should continue in their community and be implemented in others. They noted the most powerful aspects had to do with (1) the opportunity to share and learn from each other in a safe space, and (2) the reported immediate and meaningful impact the project had on participants and their interactions with children.



Time for reflection was an important component of the program. Natural Helpers participants were given locally sourced watercolour paint kits and, following each session, were encouraged to take time to create while reflecting on what they had learned and experienced. This element of the pilot was a big success as it provided a beautiful vehicle for participants to reflect and extend their learning.

To learn more about Natural Helpers and read the Pilot Report, please visit the [IEMHP website here](#).

“Over the last 3 years, I’ve had the pleasure to work with the Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion team. We’ve worked closely on the Natural Helpers for the Children and Nurturing the Seed projects in the 2022-23 year. I can happily say that the experience of working with Chaya, Lesley and the rest of the team has been pleasant and meaningful to our goals. I’ve found their approach to working with Indigenous people respectful and thoughtful. We welcomed them into our community with a determination to build programs that would help Indigenous parents and caregivers do their best to raise infants and toddlers. I’m happy to say we’ve made a great pilot program with expectations to see it grow beyond that. It was amazing to see the two-eyed seeing approach in action where we had the knowledge of Indigenous people weaved into the science of infant and early mental health, and then rolled out in a welcoming learning format for participants. The work produced from this has been very well-received with excellent participant feedback provided. We look forward to expanding on what we’ve built so far with planned work with IEMHP going into the next three years.”

Warren Kapashesit
Program Manager
Child and Youth Milopemahtesewin Services (CYMS)

Certificate & Fellowship Programs

IEMHP is committed to creating a *Certificate Program in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health*. This program is aimed at practitioners who are looking to develop a deeper knowledge base and enhance their skills when delivering services to infants, young children and their families. This is a 7-module program that will be delivered virtually, with synchronous and asynchronous webinars and live sessions, followed by mandatory readings and assignments. The Certificate Program is set to launch in the Summer of 2024. The development of a Fellowship Program is set to begin in the Fall of 2023.

IEMH Core Components Evaluation Tool

Following the work done in collaboration with the Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) Implementation Science Team that resulted in the identification of the [Infant and Early Mental Health Core Components](#), IEMHP has developed an evaluation tool for community/organization leaders to incorporate these Core Components into their practices. This tool is intended to guide and support the efforts of an organization's leadership to address the needs of young children and their families in their community, particularly when it comes to infant and early mental health, by:

- assessing the strengths of the organization,
- suggesting areas where it would be beneficial to focus their efforts, and
- monitoring the success of their efforts.

The tool was approved by the IEMHP's Leadership Team and is being tested through a cognitive interviewing approach. It will be made available to specific IEMHP partners for a third round of validation before being released publicly. Stay tuned!

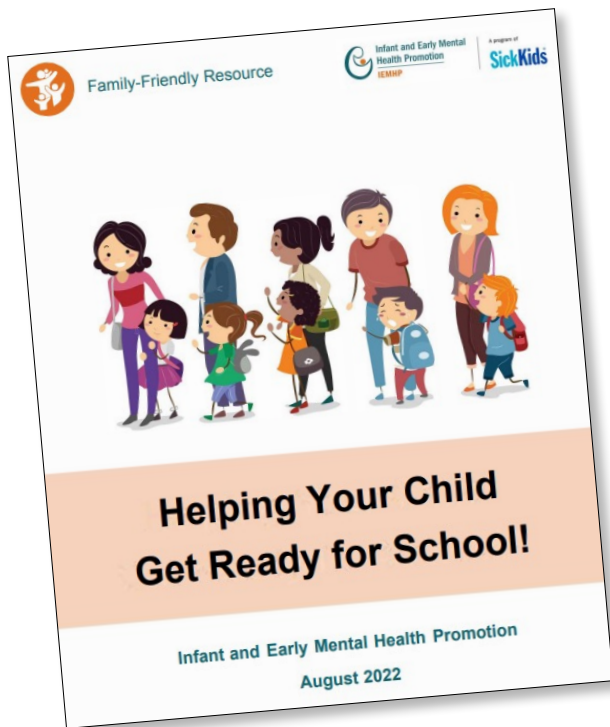
New Resources

[Recognizing and Responding to Trauma in Infants and Young Children in the Care of Child Protection](#)

This new video series featuring leading experts in the area of infant and early childhood trauma was created in partnership with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) and



guided by experienced foster care providers. The videos are aimed at providing foster parents, kinship and customary care providers with added insight into the unique mental health needs of infants, toddlers and preschoolers involved with the child welfare system. The series focuses on recognizing trauma in young children as well as ways caregivers can respond in order to best support a young child's wellbeing.



Helping Your Child Get Ready for School

Whether children are heading into kindergarten, going into a group setting for the first time, or changing schools, this parent-friendly resource provides relational strategies to help with this important and, at times, overwhelming transition.

Picking the Best Books

This resource offers some helpful tips for choosing age-appropriate books while highlighting key areas of development during these ages and stages. The resource is designed as a downloadable, printable tool for service providers that can also be shared with families and caregivers.



Website, Newsletters & Membership

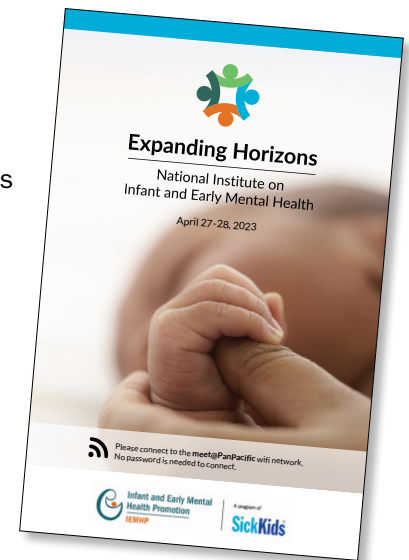
In 2022-23, we made the significant step of moving our website – imhpromotion.ca – to a new platform. This transition was not just about a technical shift – it was a chance for us to reevaluate and improve our content offering, user experience and accessibility. These efforts were reflected in our growing member community, with active membership reaching 829 in the first month the site was launched. You can learn about becoming an IEMHP member [here](#).

In the past year, IEMHP also released 6 newsletters – Coming out of COVID-19, Literacy Resources, IEMH Promotion, Off to School, World Mental Health Day, and Managing the Holidays. Our mailing list has approximately 12,000 subscribers located mostly in Canada and the US, but also in Australia, Northern Europe and other parts of the world.

The Year Ahead

Expanding Horizons National Institute

For the first time since 2019, IEMHP hosted its signature Expanding Horizons National Institute – in April 2023. This being the only Canadian conference dedicated to infant and early mental health, close to 400 practitioners were in attendance. Delegates chose from over 30 concurrent sessions and heard keynotes from leaders in this field including Dr. Rob Meeder, a passionate developmental pediatrician, Dr. Christine Chambers, the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health Scientific Director, and Dr. Kaija Puura, Executive Director of the World Association of Infant Mental Health. We will be sharing more about this important event in our 2023-24 Impact Report!



World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) Partnership

The IEMHP team attended and presented at WAIMH's World Congress on infant mental health in July 2023 in Dublin, Ireland. The Director was also a part of a panel on equity, diversity and inclusion through an infant mental health lens. In addition, our partners from Moosonee/Moose Factory, ON joined us to present our collaborative work on Nurturing the Seed and Natural Helpers (both detailed earlier in the report). It is at the Congress that IEMHP also presented a bid to host the 2026 World Congress in Toronto. Stay tuned!

IEMHP will establish the Central and Eastern Canada WAIMH affiliate in 2023-24.

National Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) Database

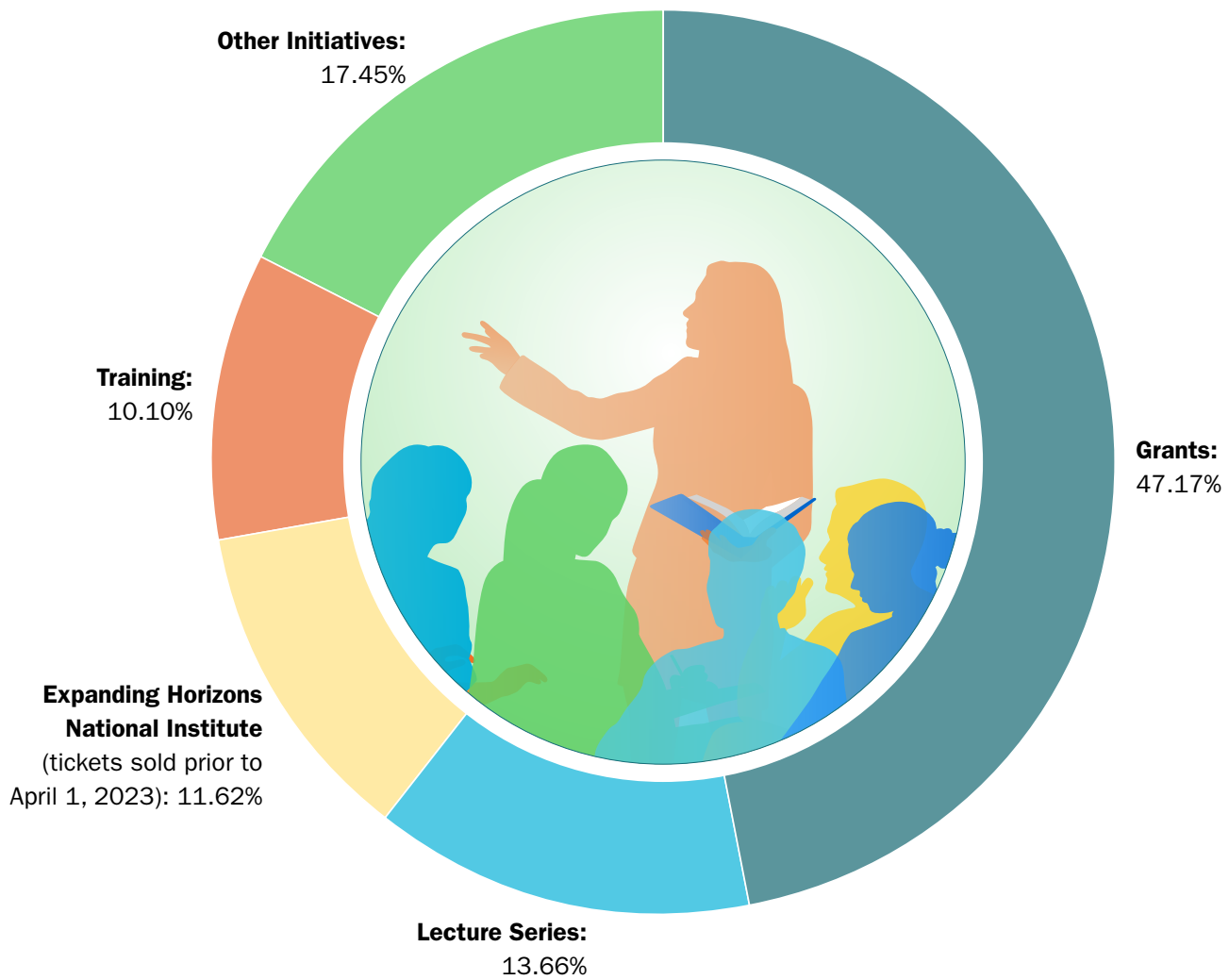
In partnership with Queen's University, the first-ever Canadian national database of Ages and Stages Questionnaires scores and demographic data has been developed. Eight communities in Canada have already entered data in the National ASQ Database and 7 more communities are in the onboarding process. Through this Database, we will build our first national understanding of how children under 6 in Canada are developing, and the factors that influence their development. This understanding will help inform programs, practice, and policy so we can better support the young children and families that access services in Canada.

IEMHP Collaborative

IEMHP Collaborative is a new training initiative that connects practitioners to topic experts. These monthly sessions will vary by topic and are aimed at enhancing the skills of those who are supporting the 0-6 population in their practice. More information about these sessions, and our training calendar can be found on our [website](#).

Funding

In 2022-2023, IEMHP was funded through the following streams:



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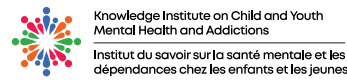
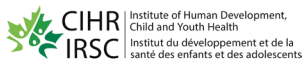
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Thank You to Our Collaborators



Pikangikum Health Authority





For more information, please visit our [website](#)
or contact us at iemhp.mail@sickkids.ca.



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