

The Nebraska Court Improvement Project, the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative,  
and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Psychological Consultation Center presents

# Infant Mental Health: Relationship-Based Assessments & Child Parent Psychotherapy Training

With Joy Osofsky, PhD

April 20th and 21st

UNL City Campus Union

Registration opens March 20 at [www.throughtheeyes.org](http://www.throughtheeyes.org)

## Abstract

The Nebraska Court led Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative has sponsored a series of day-long seminars around the state, Helping Babies from the Bench, that has provided a general framework for courts and their partners to improve their practice with infants and toddlers in the abuse and neglect system. One essential component of effective judicial practice for these most vulnerable children is access to evidence-based assessments and interventions for abused and/or neglected infants and toddlers, many who exhibit significant problems in regulating their emotions, forming and maintaining trusting intimate relationships, and developing age appropriate cognitive, physical, verbal, and social skills. This training will provide a foundation for psychologists and other mental health practitioners in relationship-based assessments, child-parent psychotherapy, and communication to the Court.

With questions about registration or the training please contact Elsbeth Pelter at 402-472-3292 or [epelter2@unl.edu](mailto:epelter2@unl.edu) or Vicky Weisz at 402-472-9814 or [vweisz1@unl.edu](mailto:vweisz1@unl.edu).

## Continuing Education

### Target audience:

Mental health professionals or graduate students, with an educational and clinical background in child development/child psychology/child psychiatry, who are interested in acquiring skills in evidence-based relationship-focused assessment and intervention approaches with abused or neglected infants and toddlers.

### Learning objectives

This workshop is designed to help participants:

1. Summarize general concepts and definitions of infant mental health
2. Apply relationship based assessment, intervention, and treatment strategies that are effective in working with traumatized, abused, and neglected children and their caregivers
3. Utilize reflective supervision for clinical infant mental health work
4. Recognize important infant mental health prevention and intervention programs, including the Miami Court Team and the Zero to Three Teams Program which address young children's exposure to trauma and collaboration with juvenile court respectively

Participation in the full 2-day training is required to earn CE credits. The training is free. 11 CE credits are available for psychologists. Please complete the form available on the registration form on [www.throughtheeyes.org](http://www.throughtheeyes.org) (registration opens March 20th) and return it with your check of \$50.00 to the UNL Psychological Consultation Center by Tuesday April 14th. No refunds will be given after this date. You can also call Jodi Carter at 402-472-2351 or email [jcarter2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:jcarter2@unlnotes.unl.edu). We apologize but we are unable to accept credit cards at this time.

*The Department of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education (CE) for psychologists. The Department of Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its content.*



Joy Osofsky, Ph.D.

## Biography

Joy D. Osofsky, Ph.D. is a psychologist and psychoanalyst and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She is Head of the Division of Pediatric Mental Health. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of New Orleans. Dr. Osofsky is Co-Director of the Louisiana Rural Trauma Services Center, a center in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and Director of the Harris Center for Infant Mental Health at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She has edited and authored numerous books, journal articles and journals regarding infant mental health and traumatized children. Her 2004 (paperback 2007) edited book, *Young Children and Trauma: Intervention and Treatment*, includes contributions related to mental health, child welfare, the judiciary, and law enforcement.

Dr. Osofsky is Past-President of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families and Past-President of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. She served on the Pew National Commission for Children in Foster Care. Dr. Osofsky has conducted research, intervention, and clinical work with infants, children, and families at high psychosocial risk. She has studied adolescent mothers as well as infants, children, and families exposed to community and domestic violence and maltreatment. Since 1997, she has been consulting and collaborating with Judge Cindy Lederman, Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Court in Miami/Dade County related to the development and evaluation of programs to benefit high risk young children and families in court.

Dr. Osofsky has received wide recognition and numerous awards for her pioneering work and leadership with our nation's most vulnerable young children.

## Consultation Opportunity

Dr. Osofsky will provide monthly telephone group consultation, beginning after the training, to a selected group of professionals who agree to provide assessments and parent-child psychotherapy to infants and toddlers in the abuse/neglect court system. These cases will be the focus of the consultation process. The Nebraska Court Improvement Project will subsidize the costs of the consultation. If you are interested in participating please send the following: 1) statement of your interest 2) cv/resume that indicates your education and practice background, and 3) names of judge(s) with juvenile court jurisdiction in your locality to: Vicky Weisz (vweisz1@unl.edu).

