

Transdisciplinary Mental Health Practitioner or Mental Health Specialist
Person Statement Sample Letter

Name: Sandy Jones Endorsement requested: Mental Health Specialist

My professional background has been progressively leading me to a culmination in seeking this endorsement as an infant - early childhood mental health specialist. My early career experiences in the early education field included teaching Head Start, being a child care teacher and site supervisor, a parent educator and a parent-teacher liaison for children with special needs. This education and experience provided the foundational knowledge base regarding typical as well as atypical development in children ages 0-5 years.

The focus of training during my MSW course work and internships was child and family studies. In addition to a social work degree with a focus of *person in environment*, I was able to intern at a clinical residential program with addicted mothers and their children at risk. Other internships included working with women with addictions and their drug exposed young children using various dyad modalities of clinical therapy as well as parenting classes and group therapy.

Prior to receiving my Masters in Social Work, I held employment positions for 15 years working with parents and their children in home visiting programs, early care and education settings and residential treatment centers. It was here that I discovered a strong interest in learning more about the social and emotional wellness of infants and very young children in at risk environments. This interest resulted in attending many conferences, teaching parenting classes, consultation to child care providers and early intervention work.

I received my clinical social work license hours while working in a clinical services agency for children 0-5 years of age and their families.

Early on I learned that it is the development of social and emotional skills during the early childhood years that determine to a large extent how we function and relate throughout our lives. During my years as a childcare provider and educator, I saw the responsibility and importance of adults in the lives of young children to model and promote healthy emotional development.

Endorsement would be a validation of my experience and education over the years and a valuable way to organize and clarify for me the journey I am on as I focus my practice on infant and early childhood mental health.

I received weekly reflective practice supervision during 8 of those 15 years of direct service employment both individually and in clinical groups with other staff.