



**INFANT-TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH  
COALITION OF ARIZONA**  
PO Box 2234  
Phoenix, AZ 85002-2234

*The Infant-Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona*

Presents

***Psychoanalytic Foundations of Infant and Early Childhood  
Mental Health Practice***  
**Arietta Slade, Ph.D.**

**Friday, February 21, 2025**

**9:00AM – 12:00PM (MST)**

Virtual

In this session, we will examine the core psychoanalytic foundations of infant and early childhood mental health practice: the unconscious, object relations, defense, transference, and countertransference. These ideas deeply informed the work of Selma Fraiberg, whose classic paper “The Ghosts in the Nursery”, (Fraiberg et al., 1975) established what have become the essentials of infant mental health practice. Though we may not use these terms in everyday practice, their relevance has not diminished with time. Indeed, given the pressure faced by practitioners and families alike, these ideas have the potential to help us understand some of our greatest challenges. This training will address competencies required for *ITMHCA Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health*.

**Arietta Slade, Ph.D.** is Professor of Clinical Child Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center, and Professor Emerita of Clinical Psychology at the City University of New York. An internationally recognized theoretician, clinician, teacher, and researcher, she has written widely on reflective parenting, the development of parental reflective functioning, and the implications of attachment and mentalization theory for child and adult psychotherapy. She is a Co-Founder and Co-Director of *Minding the Baby™*, an evidence-based interdisciplinary reflective home visiting program for high-risk mothers, infants, and their families, at the Yale Child Study Center and School of Nursing. Dr. Slade is winner of the Bowlby-Ainsworth Award from the New York Attachment Consortium, and author of the *Enhancing attachment and reflective parenting in clinical practice: A Minding the Baby Approach* (Slade, with Sadler, Eaves, and Webb, 2023). She is also author, with Jeremy Holmes, of *Attachment in Therapeutic Practice* (Holmes & Slade, SAGE Publications, 2018), and editor of the six volume set, *Major Work on Attachment* (Slade & Holmes, SAGE Publications, 2014), as well as *Mind to Mind: Infant Research, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis* (Jurist, Slade, & Bergner, Other Press, 2008), and *Children at Play* (Slade & Wolf, Oxford University Press, 1994). She has been in private practice for over 40 years, working with individuals of all ages.

The cost is \$60 for members & \$80 for non-member

Pre-registration required at [www.itmhca.org](http://www.itmhca.org)