



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
Infant Mental Health

Promoting, supporting, and strengthening children's earliest relationships
prenatal to age six

May 12, 2023

Dear Deborah Zipkin,

The Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health, Inc. (CT-AIMH) is honored to present you with the 2023 Jane C. Bourns Award of Excellence for exemplary service to infants, young children, and families.

You were nominated for and are receiving this award for your immeasurable accomplishments and devotion to children and families throughout your 29 years as Director of the Family Resource Center at Charter Oak International Academy. During your tenure, you have supported and encouraged thousands of families on their parenting journey. You are dedicated, selfless, passionate, generous, kind, and indefatigable when it comes to meeting the needs of infants, children, and families.

You exude love and gentleness in every child and adult interaction. Your warmth and genuineness made everyone participating in FRC programs feel welcome. As Director, you build relationships with families, school staff, public officials and have built a coalition of support for infants and children. As an employee of the Bridge Family Center, you secured funding to provide early learning playgroups at Charter Oak and three additional elementary schools in town, and grant money to offer yearly parent leadership trainings, parent education, ESOL classes, professional development for home childcare providers, children's theater programs, Family Academy, support groups for children as well as for grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, gift cards to help families meet basic needs and have opened an emergency diaper bank for the last three years.

From providing before and after school care for three- and four-year old's, to publishing articles, your passionate leadership has been felt. We thank you for the immense impact that you have had on children, families, and the community.

Sincerely,

Heidi Maderia

Heidi Maderia, MS, IMH-E®
CT-AIMH Executive Director

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