

# Childbirth Educator Certification Program



## CPI Program Fees

Participants are only charged one fee. The cost of your training workshop. Workshop fees automatically include certification, membership, and access to study modules.

## New Educator Requirements

1. Attend CPI Childbirth Educator Training Workshop
2. Observe 2 births
3. Observe a childbirth class
4. Write a childbirth class teaching plan
5. Teach class evaluated by an experienced childbirth educator
6. Successfully complete study module assignments

## Experienced Childbirth Educator

This option is for those who have over 2 years experience teaching childbirth classes.

1. Take the Childbirth Educator workshop
2. Review the study modules
3. Successfully complete study module assignments
4. Complete the verification form documenting 2 years or 24 months of teaching

## **Certified with a Different Organization**

If you are currently a childbirth educator with a different organization within the last year we only require that you attend one or more of our training workshops accumulating at least 16 contact hours to become CPI (Childbirth Professionals International) certified. Contact hours are accepted from different organizations, however you would need to pay a transfer fee of \$100. There is no transfer fee if contact hours are from CPI.

## **Study Modules**

Each module has an outline of concepts, resources, and page references.

1. Informed Decisions for Childbirth
2. Teaching Strategies for Childbirth Classes
3. Pregnancy Health and Nutrition
4. Understanding Labor and Giving Birth
5. Postpartum
6. Coping Relaxation Skills for Childbirth
7. Complications in Childbirth
8. Childbirth Medications and Interventions
9. Breastfeeding
10. Newborns
11. Fatherhood
12. Career Pathways for Childbirth Educators

## **Books**

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Newborn by Penny Simkin  
The Educator's Guide by Amis and Green at TheFamilyWay.com  
Called to the Childbirth Profession by Donyale Abe  
The Expectant Father by Armin A. Brott and Jennifer Ash  
Optimal Care in Childbirth by Goer and Romano

## **Renewal of Certification**

Certification lasts 4 years. To recertify childbirth educators need only submit 16 continuing education hours received within the 4 year period and pay the \$100 renewal fee. This fee is waived if a student submits all CPI contact hours. CPI offers yearly seminars awarding contact hours.

## Questions

email [contact@thechildbirthprofession.com](mailto:contact@thechildbirthprofession.com)

phone/text 916-525-7596

website <http://thechildbirthprofession.com/certification-program>

### Comparison Chart of CPI Certification to Other Programs

| Features                         | Other Organizations | Childbirth Professionals Int |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Yearly membership fee            | Yes                 | None                         |
| Certification fee                | Yes                 | None                         |
| Test fee                         | Yes                 | None                         |
| Paperwork fee                    | Sometimes           | None                         |
| Free study modules               | No                  | Yes                          |
| Dedicated student services rep   | No                  | Yes                          |
| Staff available by text message  | No                  | Yes                          |
| Quick response time to inquiries | No                  | Yes                          |
| Recertification Fee              | Yes                 | Waived for CPI CEUs          |
| Nursing CEUs                     | Sometimes           | Always                       |
| Digital forms track progress     | No                  | Yes                          |
| Understandable process           | No                  | Yes                          |
| Flexible solutions for students  | No                  | Yes                          |
| Possible completion 3-6 months   | No                  | Yes                          |

## Role and Scope of Childbirth Educator

CPI childbirth educators facilitate comprehensive learner centered classes. Our core tenant: “ knowledgeable about options, empowered to give birth.”™

The focus of the childbirth educator is to facilitate understanding, awareness, and reflection on a wide range of topics increasing a student’s knowledge of reproductive health, pregnancy, childbirth, infant development and care, and breastfeeding. Research shows that birth outcomes are improved when expecting families have attended childbirth classes. Childbirth education serves as one component of prenatal health care.

Childbirth educators practice in diverse settings ie hospitals, physician offices, community centers, homes. Childbirth education programs and classes should be designed to reach a wide demographic of expecting families. Language, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, culture, class, physical ability, level of education and so forth should not be a barrier to childbirth education.

Completion of certification by an educator shows proficiency and knowledge of reproductive health, pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding. Certification also demonstrates that curriculum development, group facilitation, and presentation skills were acquired.

Providing medical opinion or care is beyond the role and scope of childbirth educators.

### References

Stoll, Kathrin H., and Wendy Hall. “Childbirth Education and Obstetric Interventions Among Low-Risk Canadian Women: Is There a Connection?” *The Journal of Perinatal Education* 21.4 (2012): 229–237. PMC. Web. 3 Sept. 2015.

Nichols, Francine H, and Sharron S. Humenick. *Childbirth Education: Practice, Research and Theory*. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2000. Print.

# Childbirth Educator Job Description

## Title(s)

Birth educator, childbirth educator, prenatal instructor, antenatal instructor, prenatal health education, health educator, perinatal educator, community health educator, maternal educator, parent educator

## Summary of Work

Childbirth educators teach classes to families expecting babies. Classes take place in a variety of settings doctor offices, hospitals, homes, community centers, etc. Childbirth classes help women and their families better understand the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy. Childbirth educators are a resource for families providing information they may not have access to outside of a childbirth class. They help couples learn valuable skills and strategies to have an empowered birth experience.

## Salary

Average hourly rate is \$28 per hour or full time annual salary of \$62,000. The hours are usually evenings and weekends. At a hospital this position is often per diem.

## Employment Opportunities

Certified childbirth educators are employed in hospitals, public health departments, community organizations, physician groups, birthing centers, health plans, and other related companies.

## Independent Business Opportunity

Self employment is an option for childbirth educators. Instructors can also teach birth classes independently in their homes, open their own teaching centers, or partner with other professionals to offer services. Independent educators income begins at \$35 per hour and has unlimited potential.

## Education and Training

Employers seeking to hire childbirth educators may seek the following requirements

- College degree
- Certification as childbirth educator through nationally recognized organization like CPI

Additional, though not required to become a certified childbirth educator

- Nursing license, RN
- BLS/CPR

## Competencies

- Possesses comprehensive knowledge of reproductive health, pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, breastfeeding, infant development, and infant care
- Researches, synthesizes, and maintains evidence-based curriculum
- Use of learner centered teaching strategies
- Ability to manage and facilitate a group of diverse learners
- Proficiency teaching wide range of relaxation and labor coping strategies

## Perspective

The work of a childbirth educator is rewarding. Depending on the location the income varies. The position can be a full-time, part-time, or on-call. Interested individuals should research their local community to discover how childbirth educators are building their careers or businesses. Be mindful if you are passionate about this work you will find success, and you should take your own path.