



ICEA CHILDBIRTH EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION GOALS

ICEA Childbirth Educator Certification Program

1. Offer an internationally recognized certificate which verifies:
 - A. Completion of certification program prerequisites
 1. Minimum number of ICEA contact hours within required period
 2. Labor or birth observations according to ICEA requirements
 3. Successful completion of evaluated teaching
 - B. Passing score on written certification examination
 - C. Continuing education and evaluation as required for recertification

2. Set a common standard in childbirth education which will
 - A. Identify essential components of childbirth education
 - B. Establish the childbirth educator as having expertise in the following areas as they pertain to childbearing:
 1. Conception and pregnancy, including anatomy and physiology
 2. Nutrition
 3. Labor, birth, and postpartum
 4. Family-centered maternity care, including legal rights and responsibilities
 5. Emotional changes
 6. Obstetrical procedures
 7. Cesarean birth and VBAC
 8. Labor coping skills
 9. Teaching skills
 10. Professional responsibilities
 - C. Promote the concept of the childbirth educator as the advocate of
 1. Family-centered maternity care
 2. Breastfeeding
 3. The natural process of childbirth
 4. Parental participation, sharing, and individual satisfaction in vaginal and cesarean births
 5. Avoidance of medical intervention in uncomplicated pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum
 - D. Improve the quality of teaching by individual childbirth educators
 - E. Protect the consumer by ensuring minimum qualifications
 - F. Promote the concept of the parent/consumer as the coordinator of the decision-making of the health care team
 - G. Provide a basis for recognition of childbirth educators for insurance purposes where applicable

3. Provide effective resources and opportunity for certification to instructors who are isolated due to distance, educational background, or preferred method

4. Establish criteria for:
 - A. Evaluation of instructor education programs and workshops
 - B. Evaluation of childbirth educators
 - C. Evaluation of a prepared childbirth class curriculum

5. Maintain respect for the autonomy of childbirth education groups and individual childbirth educators in regard to method and teaching style