

Family Trees Lamaze-Accredited Childbirth Educator Program

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Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in pursuing your career as a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator through the Family Trees Lamaze-Accredited Program. I have educated hundreds of students and I welcome you to our family!

This Lamaze Childbirth Educator seminar is open to everyone, regardless of your professional training, education, or background. There are no pre-requisites to becoming a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE). This seminar and the subsequent requirements will prepare you for the certification exam and pursue your new career in childbirth education. Like anything in life, the more work you put in, the more you will get out.

This seminar does not teach you ABOUT childbirth education, but rather, you will learn HOW TO TEACH Lamaze childbirth education. The specifics about childbirth are learned through your reading and on-going certification exam preparation. Learning and growing in this profession is an on-going process. Regardless of your current knowledge of childbirth, Lamaze International gives many opportunities for professional development. You will continue to add to your own skill set as you become more involved with Lamaze and the profession of childbirth education.

Personally, I entered the field of childbirth education with no formal medical or nursing education – just my own personal birth experience. This was a new career choice. Lamaze International has opened so many professional doors for me, and I have tried to take advantage of those opportunities. My certification and association with Lamaze has allowed me to not only teach childbirth education to childbearing families, but also pursue graduate education, speak at international and national conferences, teach at medical schools, universities and hospital systems, participate in research at major universities, and publish in peer-reviewed journals. Now, I travel the country to train aspiring Lamaze Childbirth Educators. My career with Lamaze has been more than I could have ever imagined.

I encourage you to be inspired by all that lies ahead for you as you take the step to earn the prestigious LCCE (Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator) credential.

Warmly,

Wendy Trees Shiffer, MS, FACCE, LCCE

About Lamaze International

Forty years of research and learning from women's experience of normal, natural birth have provided evidence that has gradually but dramatically changed Lamaze from being a method for giving birth, to a philosophy that provides the foundation and direction for women as they prepare to give birth and become mothers. "Breathing" is no longer the hallmark of Lamaze. The Lamaze Philosophy of Birth is at the heart of Lamaze education and has been for nearly a decade, the driving force for significant changes in Lamaze preparation for childbirth.

Today Lamaze affirms the normalcy of birth, acknowledges women's inherent ability to birth their babies and promotes the Lamaze Healthy Birth Practices. The Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator promotes, supports and protects every woman's right to give birth, confident in her own ability, free to find comfort in a wide variety of ways, and supported by her family and all members of the health care team.

The Lamaze Childbirth Educator Competencies:

- ❖ Competency 1: Promotes the childbearing experience as a normal, natural, and healthy process which profoundly affects women and their families.
- ❖ Competency 2: Assists women and their families to discover and to use strategies to facilitate normal, natural, and healthy pregnancy, birth, breast-feeding, and early parenting.
- ❖ Competency 3: Helps women and their families to understand how complications and interventions influence the normal course of pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early postpartum.
- ❖ Competency 4: Provides information and support that encourages attachment between babies and their families.
- ❖ Competency 5: Assists women and their families to make informed decisions for childbearing.
- ❖ Competency 6: Acts as an advocate to promote, support, and protect natural, safe and healthy birth.
- ❖ Competency 7: Designs, teaches, and evaluates a course in Lamaze preparation that increases a woman's confidence and ability to give birth

How Do I Become Lamaze Certified?

Eligibility requirements to take the Lamaze Certification Exam:

There are a number of ways to certify with Lamaze. Attending a Lamaze-Accredited Childbirth Educator seminar is one step in this process. Family Trees is a Lamaze-Accredited Childbirth Educator program offering a childbirth educator seminar/workshop. You will find a list of available seminar/workshop dates and locations on the [Family Trees Website](#).

Family Trees Childbirth Educator Program

Family Trees Program Director, Wendy Trees Shiffer, MS, FACCE, LCCE is first and foremost the mother of four fabulous children. She is actively involved with childbirth-related research and often presents at national conferences and universities. In 2017, Wendy held appointments on Capitol Hill with seven members of congress to lobby for better maternal care in the United States. She is the program director of Family Trees Birth Programs including the Family Trees Lamaze-Accredited Program and Family Trees Doula School.

After a 15-year career in early childhood and elementary education, and with overwhelming support from her family, she decided to follow her calling to work with childbearing women. She completed her birth doula certification with DONA International in 2009 and began working as a doula in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In 2011 she earned her certification as a Lamaze instructor through Duke University's AHEC program, and was a presenter at the 2011 Lamaze International Conference. She returned to higher education and earned a Master's of Science in Health specializing in Midwifery and Women's Health. She has since presented at Lamaze and AWHONN conferences, Penn State University, and Towson University. She teaches private Lamaze classes and hospital-based childbirth education programs.

Wendy was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Certified Childbirth Educators in 2015. Over the years, Wendy has embraced continuing education and became certified in numerous other areas to better support mothers and babies. Her love of learning is as strong as her love of teaching.

For more information about Wendy or to register for the program, please visit www.familytreesbirthprograms.com or follow us on [Facebook](#)

The Seminar

The Family Trees seminar is awarded 25.5 contact hours for continuing education. There will be additional work to complete before and after attending the seminar. For all students attending the seminar, Wendy will be available to answer any questions during the certification process.

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- Lamaze International has awarded 25.5 hours of CNE credit for successful completion of this activity
- Lamaze International is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation
- Activity Number 0289-03
- This activity has been approved by Lamaze International for 25.5 Lamaze Contact Hours
- This activity is accepted by ICEA for 30.6 Contact Hours
- Lamaze International is also a provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 15932

Seminar Fees: *Family Trees offers a discounted rate to students who register six or more weeks early for a seminar. After that time the regular fee applies.*

- **\$500** Registrations received six or more weeks prior to the seminar are eligible for the early bird fee.
- **\$585** Registrations received less than six weeks prior to the seminar are eligible for the regular seminar rate.
- *Current nursing or midwifery students and current or aspiring birth professionals of color may register at the special rate of \$400 early bird/\$485 regular fee.*

Fee includes the seminar, 25.5 contact hours, student membership to Lamaze, and support during your certification process.

The *Lamaze Study Guide and Tool Kit* (\$235) and Lamaze Certification Exam (cost varies by country) are additional fees. **The Study Guide is recommended, but not required before the seminar.**

Payment options

Payment in full will enroll you into the Family Trees Lamaze seminar of your choice. For those wishing to pay by check, please contact Wendy at Wendy@familytreesbirthplace.com

Occasionally, depending on the number of participants registered, financial assistance for each workshop may be available in exchange for volunteer/host help during the seminar. Please [contact Wendy](#) for more information.

If you need to make alternative financial arrangements, a payment plan may be granted. Depending on the seminar details, this may or may not be possible. **Payment plans are not refundable for any reason** and must be paid in full one week prior to the seminar. This time frame is firm, and refund option is not negotiable.

Seminar Requirements

- [Register Here](#)
- Pay registration fee.
- Complete a portion of the [Lamaze Recommended Reading](#) List prior to seminar. It is recommended to read "Giving Birth with Confidence: The Lamaze Guide to Childbirth" as your first book, and complete this book prior to the seminar. All other reading may be completed at any time.
- Be prepared to practice-teach a 10-minute segment to attendees during the seminar. Please choose a topic from the [Lamaze Six Healthy Birth Practices](#).
- Attend seminar in full. Partial attendance credit is not an option.

Successful Completion of the Program

After the seminar, students are required to complete additional requirements to be completed within one year of seminar:

- Choose 1 of the following:
 - Observe 2 births and write a summary about the experience as it relates to the 6 Healthy Birth Practices.
 - Interview 2 women about their births. Listen to their birth story and do not interrupt. Write a summary about their experiences as it relates to the 6 Healthy Birth Practices.
- Complete the remaining half of the [Lamaze Recommended Reading](#) List.
- Email essays and written statement saying you've completed all reading to Wendy (wendy@familytreesbirthplace.com).

The Lamaze Exam

After the completion of the seminar, you may choose to pursue Lamaze Certification by sitting for the Lamaze Exam. The exam must be taken within three years of completing the seminar. To do so:

1. Purchase the Lamaze Learning Guide
2. Complete the [Lamaze Certification Exam](#) application to sit for the exam.
3. Prepare for the exam by completing the Learning Guide modules, notes from the seminar, the required reading list, and Cochrane articles.
4. Although it is not required, the Lamaze Practice Exam is extremely beneficial and worth the money.
5. Take, and pass the exam and earn your LCCE credentials.

Cancellation/Refund/Transfer Policy

All cancellations/refunds/transfer requests must be done in writing. PLEASE NOTE: It may take up to 30 days to process your refund.

Cancellations made 30 days prior to seminar will be refunded all but \$100, or have the option to apply the entire fee to a future seminar.

No refunds will be given with less than 30 days written notice, but you may apply the seminar fee towards the registration fee for a future seminar.

If an alternate is able to take your place, we will refund your fee. Please do not rely on this option as there is no guarantee an alternate will come forward at the last minute. This option does not apply to payment plans. Payment plans are not refundable.

Grievance and Appeal Policy

Family Trees is committed to providing a high quality program and learning environment to assist those wishing to become Lamaze Certified in achieving their goals. All complaints are acknowledged, reviewed and addressed. Family Trees values participant satisfaction and will work to achieve a prompt and fair resolution of all complaints. The participant will be required to submit to Family Trees a written request of resolution including information about the concern and any supporting facts or documentation. The Program Director will review the grievance and ensure these are addressed to the mutual acceptance of all involved. However if the candidate is still dissatisfied and wants to file a further appeal to the decision, a panel will be assembled including both program Director and a representative from the Lamaze Accreditation Council. The person bringing the grievance can request a representative on the panel as well. Background will be shared and resolution sought. Family Trees and the candidate will accept the recommendations of this panel.

Contact Information:

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