

## Scope of Practice for Lactation Educators

It is expected that the Lactation Educator shall possess the necessary skills to **educate** pregnant women and the community about breastfeeding in both group and individual settings.

The Lactation Educator shall possess sufficient education in basic breastfeeding management to **provide information and support** to a breastfeeding parent via telephone, in a group setting, and in a clinic-type environment (i.e.WIC.)

The Lactation Educator shall possess the necessary **counseling** skills to provide sensitive and appropriate support to the breastfeeding parent and family.

The Lactation Educator shall demonstrate clinical judgment sufficient to **refer** breastfeeding parents appropriately to other healthcare providers including International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) for additional assistance.

The Lactation Educator trained by Bakersfield Breastfeeds is a recipient of a certificate of completion of a course in basic breastfeeding management ranging from 38 to 45 hours. **The course does not confer a certification or credential to be used after the Educator's signature.** (Many lactation educators have subsequently attended 25-50 additional lactation education hours in preparation for the IBLCE Exam.)

Additional information about other lactation education programs is available at the following link:

<http://massbreastfeeding.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Landscape-of-Breastfeeding-Support-03-31-14.pdf>