



STUDENTS

APPRENTICES

ASSISTANTS

The opportunity to obtain a Direct-entry midwifery education is a true gift.

It is a gift to the student, who is privileged to be trusted by childbearing women, and it is gift to the women who use midwives, and to their daughters who may want to use a midwife someday..

Non-nurse midwives continue to fight for the right to obtain their training through the apprenticeship model. While we agree that formal education is important, we don't feel it is the only way to acquire academic knowledge.

We also believe that experience, passed on from midwife to student is the best way for a woman to become a midwife.

An apprentice is someone with whom I have a stated agreement to train them until they are ready to start practicing on their own as a primary midwife. We have a commitment to one another, and a relationship with one another. The apprentice is a regular part of most prenatal visits.

A student may be another midwife's apprentice, who is involved in my practice for some particular type of training. It could also be a health care professional in another field that just wants some experience in woman-centered care and natural birth.

An assistant is either another midwife, helping me at a birth, or possibly someone with advanced training who is not a midwife, but only assists at births. I always try to arrange for an assistant at a birth. I make every effort to have the assistant meet my clients before birth.

Certain aspects of your care may be assigned to the apprentice, assistant or student, during prenatal care or at the birth. This will never take place without your permission. Please feel free to speak to me if you are not comfortable with a student or apprentice being involved in your care. The women who work with me are an asset to my practice. Midwives retire, move and stop practicing all the time. We need these students to become competent, experienced midwives.