



College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota

Online Course:

## **Prenatal Development and Its Influence on Children's Development: A Foundational Course on the Parent-Infant Relationship**

**Earn a Continuing Education Certificate (24 clock hours)**

**Approved for International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) clock hours**

Note: If you are from a state other than MN, you may want to check with your licensing board to verify that the same measurement standard will be applied in your state for this credit.



### **Course Description:**

This online course is grounded in the belief that pregnancy, regardless of the outcome, begins the parent-infant relationship. It is designed for family educators, social workers, health care providers, and others working with families to facilitate positive parent-baby interactions that begin in the prenatal period. The ways in which children develop and interact with their parents and environment is unique for each child. Seldom do people consider that many of children's behaviors observed in the preschool years originate in the prenatal period. What happens during pregnancy,

birth, and early postpartum not only sets the stage for parents but can influence the way children develop and interact with their environment throughout life.

### **Comments from Students:**

- *I have learned to sit in a more meaningful way with the developmental histories of children seen at our child clinics. I hope I can now embrace the stories of pregnancy, labor, and birth as a story that may have echoes in current stories. The prenatal work is not restricted to prenatal interventions. I see how I am growing in my clinical work with toddlers, preschool children, adolescents, and adults from all walks of life.*
- *The fact that the fetus hears, tastes, practices breathing, moves about and stretches is established knowledge. To consider the significance of these competencies as impacting postnatal areas such as attachment, breastfeeding, language development (and possibly many more areas) is astounding.*
- *The articles support the evidence of the inner connectedness of mother, father and baby, giving a broader perspective to consider in working with the parenting tasks of the family during and after pregnancy.*



### **Course Instructor:**

**Joann O'Leary, Ph.D., MPH, MS, IMH-E® (IV)**, has a Ph.D. in Work, Community and Family Education and a Masters in Maternal-Child Health from the University of Minnesota. She also has a Masters in Psychology through research from Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Course Format:** Online password-protected course website. Instructor-guided. Weekly assignments and activities.

**Computer Requirements:** Computer with internet access and high speed connection.

**Fee:** \$225, course fee, plus purchase of required reading materials as specified on the CEED web site.

**To Register:** Registration form and more information about the course and instructor are available on the CEED web site at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/profdev/onlinecourses/prenatal.htm>.

**Questions?** Contact Karen Anderson, CEED online course management, at 612-625-6617 or [ander352@umn.edu](mailto:ander352@umn.edu).