

Vanessa Flood

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Professional Profile

I aspire to challenge students to think outside the box; connect ideas and relate them back to real world experiences. I provide a positive learning experience. I am dedicated to enthusiastic and dynamic teaching as a means of enhancing education and personal growth.

- Holds Bachelor's degree in Microbiology.
- Specialized in reproductive biology.
- Holds Certifications in childbirth education, breastfeeding education/consulting, labor support, end of life support and birth doula training.
- Experienced in teaching a variety of ages; preschool-adult.
- Establishes personal connections with consistent positive feedback.
- Confident in communicating and educating with web-based technology.

Education, Certifications and Trainings

B.A. Microbiology

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. 1997

Certifications

Lifespan Doulas Certified End of Life Doula 2023-current

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) 2015-current

UC-Davis Baby Behavior Trainer 2013

DONA International Certified Birth Doula Trainer 2012-current

Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator 2010-current

Certified Breastfeeding Educator 2008

Certified Happiest Baby Educator. 2005

DONA International Certified Childbirth Doula 2004-current

ALACE Certified Childbirth Educator. 2002

KS Certified Nurses Aid. 1997

Trainings

DONA trained Postpartum Doula. 2005

Presentations

Poster Presentation; Vaccine Safety Misconceptions for Lamaze-DONA conference, Kansas City, MO 2014

Key Qualifications

President and creator of Birthing Beyond, LLC.

Created website to support business.

Plans and instructs each subject area using a wide variety of teaching methods, visual aids and strategies to engage students in active learning.

Implements technological approaches to subject material.

Researches and cites evidence-based resource in curricula.

Created and established curriculum for all current classes taught.

Accumulated 42 hours of graduate level courses; 500+ levels.

Experienced Certified Childbirth Educator

Have taught over 10,000 parents in both private and hospital settings since 2002. Created comprehensive, evidence based childbirth education curriculum for first time parents, refresher, natural strategies, vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC), newborn care and newborn care adoptive.

Experienced Certified Birth Doula

Have supported 600+ persons including Low risk, High risk, VBAC, VBA2C, Cesarean, Induction, Assisted, Stillbirths, Known and Unknown Birth Defects, Loss of Spouse, Eclampsia, and HELLP. Worked with a variety of Obstetricians, Family Practice, and Midwives in local hospitals, birth centers and homes.

Experienced Breastfeeding Educator/Consultant

Have taught in both private and group settings, for both myself and for hospitals, since 2008. Have worked 1000+ clinical lactation hours, 90+ hours of lactation management and am an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Provided Peer to Peer lactation support through WIC as a breastfeeding peer Counselor since 2013. I am the Education Director of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition and lead trainer. Since 2022 I have trained 80% of KS WIC staff in the new USDA Breastfeeding Curriculum and in 2024 will train 3 Midwest WIC states staff.

Employment

Professional Development in Education

- **Birthing Beyond, LLC**, April 2002 to present
- **Education Director, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition** July 2023 to present
- **Lead Trainer, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition** January 2016 to present
- **Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, JOCO WIC** July 2013 to present
- **Teaching Assistant- Biology, Barton County Community College** May 2012- December 2015
- **Parent Educator, Shawnee Mission Hospital** Oct 2006 to June 2012
- **Parent Educator, St. Luke's South Hospital** Nov 2005 to Dec 2007
- **Early Childhood Educator, SBC PDO** Aug 2003 to May 2009

Professional Development in Microbiology

- **Unilever Foods**, November 1997 - October 2000
Microbiologist, quality control technician.
Wrote laboratory SOP's and Safety manuals.
Headed up local quality improvement project.
Wrote safety training manual and provided training to all employees.
Analyzed and presented data to managers on a routine basis.

Community Involvement

Trixi Lou, Post Diagnosis Photography, Education Director 2023-present
Support Run for Little Hearts Non-Profit Annual Race
Heritage Elementary PTO Executive Vice President 2014-2015
Heritage Elementary PTO President 2010-2014
Heritage Elementary PTO Vice President 2009-2010
Girl Scout troop leader, September 2006-2012

References Available Upon Request

Professional Biography Below

Professional Biography

Vanessa Flood is a dedicated and passionate birth doula trainer, birth doula, childbirth educator and board-certified lactation consultant. As a seasoned birth doula who served over 600 clients, Vanessa brings empathy, compassion, and a wealth of practical insights to the birthing experience. She is celebrated for her conversational style of teaching, making complex topics accessible and engaging. Positive reviews attest to her ability to impart evidence-based knowledge in practical application. Not only is she well regarded for her expertise in traditional, in-person training, but her adeptness in the virtual realm has garnered praise from a diverse range of clients. Vanessa is dedicated to ensuring that every birthing experience is marked by inclusivity and equitable care.

