



ILCA

A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF LACTATION PROFESSIONALS

# THE INTERNATIONAL LACTATION CONSULTANT ASSOCIATION

*ILCA is the professional association for international board certified lactation consultants (IBCLCs) and other health care professionals who care for breastfeeding families.*

## VISION

A worldwide network of lactation professionals.

## MISSION

To advance the profession of lactation consulting worldwide through leadership, advocacy, professional development, and research.

## INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

ILCA has non-governmental organization (NGO) status with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). ILCA provides official representatives to many organizations, including the World Health Assembly, Codex Alimentarius, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, and US based groups such as the United States Breastfeeding Committee, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition, Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium, and Healthy People 2010 Coalition.

## MEMBERSHIP

ILCA has more than 5,000 members from 75 nations, and includes a wide variety of health professionals, including IBCLCs, midwives, nurses, physicians and medical practitioners, childbirth educators, dietitians, and many more. ILCA members are also maternal and infant health advocates, public health specialists, and volunteer support counselors. ILCA networks with local, regional, national, and international lactation affiliate groups worldwide.

## WHAT IS AN IBCLC?

An International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) is a health care professional who specializes in the clinical management of breastfeeding. IBCLCs are certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, Inc. [www.iblce.org] under the direction of the U.S. National Commission for Certifying Agencies. IBCLCs work in a wide variety of health care settings, including hospitals, pediatric offices, public health clinics, and private practice.

## HOW TO ACCESS AN IBCLC

ILCA maintains a list of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants worldwide in the "Find a Lactation Consultant Directory" [www.ilca.org]. ILCA also provides a Worksite Lactation Support Directory, a listing of IBCLCs who can advise employers on setting up a lactation room in their company. [www.ilca.org/i4a/member\_directory/feSearchForm.cfm?directory\_id=6&pageid=3725&showTitle=0]

## RESOURCES

[www.ilca.org](http://www.ilca.org)

ILCA provides a host of resources to equip health professionals in supporting mothers and babies with breastfeeding, including:

- **FIND A LACTATION CONSULTANT** – search by zip code to find consultants in your area [www.ilca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3432]
- **WORKSITE LACTATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY** – search by Name, State, or Country [www.ilca.org/i4a/member\_directory/feSearchForm.cfm?directory\_id=6&pageid=3725&showTitle=0]
- **JOURNAL OF HUMAN LACTATION** – quarterly professional journal with the latest lactation related research
- **ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** [www.ilca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3305]
- **PUBLICATIONS and POSITION PAPERS**  
Evidence-based Position Papers and publications on various topics. Many are available as free downloads. [www.ilca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3314]
- **PROMOTION MATERIALS for IBCLC DAY and WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK** [www.ilca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3304]
- **THE WORLDWIDE EDUCATION CALENDAR** with listings of lactation related conferences and events across the world [www.ilca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3307]

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