

Congratulations!

As an expectant mother, you are about to embark on one of life's most amazing and wonderful journeys. Perhaps the most important gift you can give to you and your baby is the gift of a healthy, happy pregnancy. The McDonough District Hospital Obstetrics (OB) Department offers a full range of courses designed to make each family member's experience the best that it can be! We encourage you to take advantage of all of the courses that apply to your situation. Your spouse, support person, parents and grandparents are welcome to attend these classes with you.

4-Week L.A.T.E. Classes (Childbirth Instruction)

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:45 PM

Don't be late for these classes! Join other expectant parents in a class designed to help women know their birthing options, increase their confidence in their body's ability to give birth and help their partners build the skills needed in their role as primary support person. During the classes, your instructor will explain the stages of labor: Latent, Active, Transition and Expulsion (L.A.T.E.). They will incorporate not only breathing and relaxation techniques, but will teach you various labor positions to help make each phase of labor as manageable as possible. Our instructors are experienced OB nurses at MDH with more than 40 years of nursing experience between them. They are skilled at helping women cope with the challenges of labor, and they will use humor to make this a fun class for you and your support person. A tour of the Dolores Kator Switzer Women's Center will be included in this series.

January 9, 16, 23, 30 March 5, 12, 19, 26 April 30; May 7, 14, 21
July 2, 9, 16, 23 August 27; September 3, 10, 17 October 22, 29; November 5, 12

8-Hour L.A.T.E. Class

Saturdays, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

MDH is excited to offer this class option for our expectant mothers and their support person. This one-day class will provide you with the same information offered in our L.A.T.E. series, but might be easier to attend if you work or take classes during the week. Since this class will be the equivalent of taking the 4-Week L.A.T.E. classes, we will be able to offer the breathing and relaxation techniques and a tour of the Dolores Kator Switzer Women's Center during this class. There will be several short breaks offered during the class as well as a 30-minute lunch break.

February 8 April 4 June 6
August 1 October 3 December 5

Cesarean Section Class

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

This one-evening class will provide information about some of the common reasons for cesarean birth. We'll also discuss what you can expect during your postoperative period. This class is strongly recommended for those who wish to have their support person join them in the operating room.

February 13 April 9 June 4
August 6 October 1 December 3

Sibling Class

Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 AM

This one-hour class is designed to help the "big brother" or "big sister" understand what it will be like to have a new baby in the family. The class instructors will use interactive play and videos to help little people see how important they still are in the family, even though they are now the "big kids." Milk and cookies will be provided, and children will have the opportunity to color a picture that will be placed on the crib of "their baby" after he or she arrives.

February 1 May 2 August 8 November 7

Postpartum Care and Understanding Your Newborn

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:45 PM

This class will focus on what you can expect after your baby is born. We'll talk about the emotional changes you'll go through, what physical changes you can expect to occur, the importance of rest and proper nutrition and family planning issues. We'll also discuss normal characteristics of newborns, how often you should do basic baby care tasks, when to call your healthcare provider and what information he or she will want to know when you call.

February 20 April 16 June 11
August 13 October 8 December 10

Breastfeeding Class

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM

This is a one-evening class that will provide instruction on breastfeeding. A certified Lactation Specialist will provide information about the importance of breastfeeding as well as tips and techniques to help make this an enjoyable time for you and your baby.

February 6 April 2 May 28
July 30 September 24 November 19

Nutrition for Pregnancy (nominal fee for this consult)

This one-on-one consult emphasizes the importance of nutrition during pregnancy. This will help you decide which food selections are best for you and your baby. It is strongly recommended that you arrange this consult as soon as you know you are pregnant if you have any concerns about your present diet. Consults can be arranged by calling (309) 836-1631.

CPR/First Aid Class (nominal fee for this class)

We encourage parents to take a CPR and First Aid Class prior to the baby's arrival to learn valuable safety tips and techniques. MDH CPR/First Aid Classes are offered throughout the year. Please call MDH Outreach Services at (309) 836-1584 for registration information or to receive a complete list of classes.

* If you complete the L.A.T.E. class, you will receive a certificate entitling you and your support person to attend an MDH community CPR course free of charge.

Understanding Birth eClass

Can't come to childbirth class?

We'll bring the class to you.

If you work late or on the weekends, or if you find yourself on bed rest for health reasons, our online childbirth education program is the perfect alternative to an in-person class.

