

## The S.T.A.B.L.E. Program -- Instructor Classifications & Qualifications

### LEAD INSTRUCTOR

Description and Responsibilities	Minimal Work Experience	Knowledge and Expertise	Instructor Course Attendance and Teaching Requirements
<p>Responsible for ensuring the integrity and quality of the Learner course and for submitting the on-line roster to recognize student involvement in Learner courses.</p> <p>Must be considered an expert in neonatal nursing or medicine. <i>Please note:</i> respiratory therapists with advanced neonatal knowledge, especially those involved with neonatal transport, may also qualify for the Lead Instructor role.</p>	<p>Must have at least two years equivalent (<math>\geq 4000</math> hours) of recent – within five years – <b>Level II, Level III or Level IV* Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)</b> experience (see descriptions below).</p> <p><b>Level III or Level IV NICU work experience is preferred for the Lead Instructor.</b></p>	<p>Understands, and can teach, the content found in all of the S.T.A.B.L.E. Program modules at an advanced level. This content includes: principles of hypoglycemia, safe use of umbilical catheters, thermoregulation and physiologic consequences of hypothermia, neonatal chest x-ray interpretation, blood gas interpretation, neonatal respiratory diseases, pulmonary hypertension and shunting, use of assisted ventilation, resuscitation, assessment and treatment of shock, presentation and treatment of infection, CBC (complete blood count) interpretation, and offering emotional support to families in the newborn ICU.</p>	<p>Candidates must attend a National or Private Instructor course taught by certified S.T.A.B.L.E. faculty.</p> <p>Participate in teaching the course a minimum of two times per two years (per the date shown on the instructor registration card). The Instructor's participation is tracked by the on-line roster program.</p>

### SUPPORT INSTRUCTOR

<p>The Support Instructor may teach in collaboration with a Lead Instructor, but may not teach independently of a Registered Lead Instructor.</p>	<p>Must have at least one year equivalent (<math>\geq 2000</math> hours) of recent – within five years – level II SCN or level III or IV NICU experience (see descriptions below)</p>	<p>The Candidate is familiar with material in one or more of the S.T.A.B.L.E. program modules as outlined above under Lead Instructor.</p>	<p>Support instructors may either attend a National Course or be oriented to the program by an experienced registered Lead instructor as outlined in the Support Instructor Preparation and Registration guidelines on the S.T.A.B.L.E. website. Same teaching requirement as under Lead Instructor.</p>
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<p><b>Specialty Care / Level II Special Care Nursery</b></p>	<p>Provides care to infants <math>\geq 32</math> weeks gestation and weighing <math>\geq 1500</math> grams who are mildly to moderately ill with conditions that are expected to resolve rapidly, and are not anticipated to need subspecialty services on an urgent basis. Can provide continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). And, can provide up to 24 hours of conventional mechanical ventilation for condition expected to resolve rapidly or until transport is achieved.</p>
<p><b>Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)</b></p>	<p>Provides comprehensive care for infants born at all gestational ages with mild to complex critical conditions that require advanced life support. Able to provide a full range of respiratory support that may include conventional and high-frequency ventilation and administration of inhaled nitric oxide. Can provide therapeutic hypothermia for treatment of hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. Skilled in the care of neonates with umbilical catheters and intravenous lines including central lines.</p>
<p><b>Level IV NICU</b></p>	<p>Level III plus has the capacity to provide surgical repair of complex congenital or acquired conditions. Has ability to provide ECMO. Has a broad range of subspecialists (medical, surgical, anesthesia) on site. Facilitates transport and provides outreach to lower-level facilities.</p>

***\*See Stark AR, Pursley DWM, Papile LA, et al. Standards for Levels of Neonatal Care: II, III, and IV. Pediatrics. 2023;151(6): e2023061957***