La Leche League International

-Purpose and Principles-Reference Set

Purpose

General Purpose

To help the mother learn to breastfeed her baby. To encourage good mothering through breastfeeding.

To promote a better understanding of breastfeeding and related subjects.

Vision Purpose

To realize, deepen, and share the love and wisdom found in the breastfeeding relationship.

<u>Principles</u> In pursuit of purpose, participants will:

Honor each other's:	When working with others:	Work as a system to:
 Right and responsibility to: Determine their own identity and needs, and follow their own judgment and instincts. Protect what belongs to them, what is important to them and their privacy. Inform their choices considering scientific knowledge, experience and intuition. Voluntarily connect with others to pursue their goals. Right to: Create new parts of the system. 	 Make room for family. Honor obligations. Encourage/educe, not compel. Be open to look for opportunities for generosity and joy. Work through and resolve conflict without threats, coercion or intimidation. Freely and fully exchange information. Are explicit about values. Are mutually affirming, supporting and accountable. Deliberate and make decisions in ways that reasonably represent those who are both relevant and affected without any one dominating. Entrust only sufficient authority and power as necessary to accomplish common work. 	 Remain open and welcoming to new participants and parts. Ensure diversity and health. Create conditions which foster learning, development and growth. Keep or shift power, authority and resources to the smallest or most local part that includes those affected. Create no built-in advantage or disadvantage for any part or participant. Remain coherent and disciplined as a whole. Protect, not undermine, breastfeeding, mothering and family.

These Principles are interpreted and considered as whole. No Principle will be applied to the exclusion of others.

They are intended to balance and inform each other.

LLLI Policies and Standing Rules Notebook, Appendix 3