



APPLICATION for the Birth Story School

OPEN YOUR EAR - APPRENTICESHIP 2025

at The Birth Story School with Pam England

FINDING NEW MEANING in a disturbing, unexpected moment in childbirth requires containment, contemplation, and the guidance of a trained birth story listener who understands childbirth as an initiatory experience in the context of birth in our culture. Casual social listening rarely “turns a story.” However, as a professional listener, you will possess the unique skills and discipline to focus the storyteller’s attention, to know what to listen for, discern what to follow or ignore, and transform limiting beliefs and perceptions into new meaning — often in one or two sessions. You will also learn how to use Great Stories (myths and fairytales) to turn a medical story into a mythic story.

This one-of-a-kind, 28-week mentorship requires your commitment to study, complete homework, supervised practice, and personal growth.

Upon completion of the course, if you demonstrate a beginner’s level of mastery, you will be Certified as a Birth Story Specialist. Your learning may continue forever; and if it does, you will become a Birth Story Magician. (If upon completion of this training you are not ready for certification, you can continue to study with us and earn certification later).

PRE-REQUISITES AND CONSIDERATIONS

YOU MUST BE A SELF-MOTIVATED, contemplative learner, enjoy reading and research, and be ready to join and support your coterie of apprentice Birth Story Magicians. The best teacher is experience; you must find volunteer birth storytellers, lead many sessions, jump in, take risks trying on new approaches and techniques.

Other requisites include:

- Attending the mandatory three-hour “THE WEAVING OF STORIES: A *Philosophical Foundation for Birth Story Work*.”
- Familiar with medical terminology and jargon commonly used in birth stories
- A basic understanding of the physiology of childbirth
- Knowledge of birth in our culture, either through personal experience giving birth and/or working in the field.
- Sufficient time for study/reading/practice each week, estimated three to five hours.

You cannot audit this course, i.e., engage in passive learning through access to the materials and live consultations without participating fully in homework, practice sessions, and supervision. Students who attempt to audit the training will be dropped.

Before you apply or make the commitment, take a moment to consider the obligations of the 16-week Apprenticeship. You will be agreeing to:

1. Reserve at least four to five hours weekly for reading, study, homework, and practice sessions with volunteer birth storytellers and show up prepared to fully participate in a weekly two-hour consultation call (on Zoom).
2. Through promotion on social media and your website, recruit at least one to two volunteer birth storytellers during weeks a practice-session is required.
3. Submit required recordings with self-evaluations; at least four during Open Your Ear and 12 during the 16-week Apprenticeship (even when you feel self-conscious or think a session wasn't your best).

ONLY SIX STUDENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED into the 28-week course to allow for a genuine mentoring relationship and ensure your successful mastery of this fantastic Process and Work. The rapid pace of learning new information builds from one week to the next—this means that a new student cannot join later if you drop out. Therefore, know when you apply, and before you accept your position in the class, that you are committing to be part of a committed coterie of apprentices, complete each term, and pay the non-refundable tuition in full.

THEREFORE, POSTPONE APPLYING IF YOU:

- Are you pregnant now or planning on becoming pregnant in the next year.
- Have children under two years of age or do not have childcare. (Children cannot attend the Consultation & Practice sessions.)
- Are already feeling overextended with work, children, and other responsibilities.
- Planning to move or take extended travel before completing the course.
- Have no experience in childbirth, personally or professionally.
- Are not wanting to be mentored, strive for excellence, or feel too self-conscious to participate fully in class, which means learning through role-playing and case study reviews with your peers.



TUITION

Tuition is paid in full before each part of the course begins; payments can be made in installments before the courses begins.

Open Your Ear: 12-weeks. \$850.

Readings; videos; weekly 90-minute group calls for consultation, demonstration, and practice; case studies; practice with classmates and volunteer storytellers.

Apprenticeship:

16 weeks. \$2060. *(includes modules, homework, weekly live 2.5 to 3-hour consultations/supervision and six private one-hour consultations for practice and mentorship).*

Cancellation & Refund Policy:

If you notify of cancellation from Open Your Ear in writing:

Two weeks before the course begins, you will be given a full refund minus a \$200 admin and application process fee.

Withdrawal one week before the course begins, a 50% refund.

Once either portion of the course commences, tuition will not be refunded. If you decide to drop out for any reason, or if you are dropped for failing to keep your agreements as an apprentice, there are no tuition refunds.

If for any reason BIRTH STORY MEDICINE or your Tutor must cancel the course before it begins, you will receive a full refund; if such cancellation occurs during the course, you may be given an opportunity to complete the course with another tutor or withdraw. If you choose to withdraw, your refund will be prorated.



OPEN EAR/APPRENTICE APPLICATION &

The first stage in the selection process is the written application.
Send your completed application to pam@birthstorymedicine.com

1. **INTRODUCE YOURSELF**, *Who are you?*, e.g., Name; Where you live; What gives you bliss; Your creative expression...
2. *In One Sentence*, What is your intention, purpose, or call to become a birth story magician or specialist?
3. Briefly describe **YOUR EXPERIENCE IN BIRTH**, including: giving birth, working in the field, trainings you've taken that have influenced your approach or philosophy.
4. Have you experienced emotional birth shock, disappointment, or trauma—as a mother, father, or birth attendant? Briefly describe your experience, path to resolution, and how it calls you to birth story work. (200 words)
5. **EXPERIENCE**: About how many labors/births have you attended? If you haven't yet, are you planning to, or are you prepared to begin? Do you have experience in providing counseling/therapy/coaching?
6. What is **YOUR PHILOSOPHY** regarding childbirth preparation? Describe your philosophy regarding birth story work? (limit 200 words each answer)
7. Regarding birth in our culture, what do you struggle most to accept or understand?
8. After reading pre-requisites and considerations, which (if any) might present a challenge for you?

CONTACT INFO:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

The next step is a *Getting To Know You* in an Interview on Zoom.

Thank you for applying, looking forward to meeting our interview.

Pam England