



Letter To Student's Family

Dear Parents and Family:

Our school is fortunate to have the new Baby Think It Over Program[®] under way. I hope each of you will take full advantage of the experience this Program can offer to the whole family.

The core of the Program is a parenting simulation using Baby, a computerized infant simulator. The parenting simulation is designed to help young adults understand three important facts about babies: (1) Babies' demands are unpredictable and must be met promptly, (2) Babies require a great deal of time and attention, and (3) Babies change a parent's life profoundly. The Program helps young adults explore the physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences of parenthood.

The infant simulator (Baby) will cry at random, unpredictable times 24 hours a day and require the student to care for it by inserting and turning a care key in its back. Baby stops crying when the care key is inserted. The care key must be held in place from 1 to 30 minutes, approximating the time needed to care for an infant. A care key is used in Baby's back rather than a bottle in Baby's mouth to reinforce the fact that an infant does not cry only when it's hungry.

Baby will also cry if held in a position it does not like or if it is roughly handled or abused. Although Baby may disrupt your household for a few days just as a real infant would, I'm sure you will agree the valuable lessons your child will learn far outweigh a few days of possible inconvenience. It will be your child's responsibility to keep Baby safe and cared for. You can help by providing emotional support and treating Baby as if it were real. Call Baby by the name given on the birth certificate. Help make arrangements for Baby in advance (anticipation should be a positive experience, just as it will be someday for a real infant). Be a coach for this event, not a player. Offer advice, but remember your child should do the actual work of caring for Baby. Most important, expect the experience to offer many opportunities to discuss issues such as parenting, marriage and dating. These are conversations we all try to have with our children, but often we or they are too busy, the topic isn't easy to approach, or it sounds too much like lecturing. This is a perfect time for those discussions.



Parent Consent Form

As the parent or guardian of a student who is eligible to participate in the Baby Think It Over® Program, I have read and understand the following:

The Baby Think It Over® Program will require my son or daughter to be the sole caretaker of Baby, a computerized infant simulator whose crying replicates that of an infant. The experience is intended to demonstrate to my son or daughter the full-time commitment required for parenting an infant.

Baby cries at random intervals throughout the day and night. When it cries, it will be the responsibility of my son or daughter to attend to Baby's needs.

Baby's crying and need for care may cause my child to lose sleep and possibly disturb other family members.

I agree to reimburse _____ in an amount up to \$_____ for any damage to the infant simulator, or any equipment which is issued with it.

Charges which may be assessed are:

Other charges may be assessed for damaged or missing accessories.

Having read the above, I agree to allow _____ to participate in the Baby Think It Over® Program.

Signed _____ Date _____



No, I do not wish _____ to participate in the Baby Think It Over® Program. I understand that if I do not allow my child to participate in this project, he or she will not receive a lowered grade because of my refusal. I understand that an assignment requiring an equal amount of work will be given as a substitute for this project.

Signed _____ Date _____