

## Letter to Student's Family

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear parents/guardians and family:

Your son/daughter will soon experience many of the responsibilities as the parent of a new infant. As a temporary parent, your son/daughter will care for a computerized infant simulator that must be supervised by your son/daughter at all times. Baby will cry and need to be fed, burped, rocked, and have its diapers changed. It is your son/daughter's responsibility to tend to Baby's needs. Baby is part of the RealCare® Parenting Program.

A small computer inside Baby is programmed to follow actual schedules of 15 different newborns. Each day Baby will be on a different schedule. Baby may need your son/daughter to care for it at inconvenient times, including when they are sleeping.

Your son/daughter will be graded on learning how to keep Baby happy, their understanding of the full-time commitment of child care, their persistence (getting through the simulation without quitting), the care and condition of Baby and supplies, and returning everything to school on time. Incidences of neglect, head support failure, shaking, rough handling, wrong position, no diaper, and other functions are recorded by Baby's computer and lower your son/daughter's grade. Some of these behaviors will produce intense crying that your son/daughter should learn to avoid. This intense crying can be stopped by rocking Baby.

Your son/daughter will wear a waterproof, hospital-type wristband with a unique ID that must be present whenever your son/daughter is caring for Baby. Without the ID, Baby will not accept care. The wristband must be in good condition and still on your son/daughter's wrist when Baby is returned.

You can help by providing emotional support and treating Baby as if it were real. Offer advice, but your child should do the actual work of caring for Baby.

The Realityworks infant simulators are school property. If Baby is abused, damaged, or lost while in your son/daughter's care, you may be held responsible for repair or replacement costs of up to \$850. Other charges may be assessed for damaged or missing accessories.

Lack of sleep may cause your son/daughter to become drowsy. Please do not allow your son/daughter to drive if overly tired. Instruct your son/daughter to pull over to care for Baby if it cries while he or she is driving.

I will give students the possible dates for the simulation, and your son/daughter will need you to help him or her choose the most convenient date offered. I will post those dates and your son/daughter may sign up for one when he or she returns the attached sheet with your signature.

Thank you for your patience and support in making this project a learning experience for your son/daughter!

Your son/daughter's teacher

# Parent/Guardian Permission Form

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

The RealCare® Parenting Program will require my son or daughter to be the sole caretaker of the Realityworks infant simulator, whose sounds and behaviors replicate those of an infant. The experience is intended to demonstrate to my son or daughter the full-time commitment required for parenting an infant.

The infant simulator requires care throughout the day and night. When Baby 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 son or daughter to lose sleep, and may possibly disturb other family members. Lack of sleep may cause drowsiness. I will not allow my son or daughter to drive if overly tired.

I am aware of all safety precautions my son or daughter must be aware of while caring for Baby.

The Realityworks infant simulators are school property. If Baby is abused, damaged, or lost while in my son or daughter's care, I may be held responsible for repair or replacement costs of up to \$850.

Having read all of the above, I agree to allow my son or daughter to participate in the RealCare® Parenting Program.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

♦ ♦ ♦

No, I do not wish my son or daughter to participate in the RealCare® Parenting Program. I understand that if I do not allow my son or daughter to participate in this project, he or she will not receive a lower 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.

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian/Student Safety Precautions Sign-Off

Read this list together with your son/daughter. *Signing this form indicates that you have read and understand all safety precautions that should be observed while your son/daughter is caring for Baby.* The student must return this form along with the *Parent/guardian permission form* to participate in the parenting simulation.

### Driving

- ☐ Baby may cry while the student is driving. Please be aware that the crying may start unexpectedly, and the student should be prepared.
- ☐ Do not feed, burp, rock, change diapers, or otherwise care for Baby while driving.
- ☐ The student must bring his or her vehicle to a complete stop in a safe location before caring for Baby, or to retrieve a piece of Baby's equipment that falls.
- ☐ Failure to install Baby in a car seat in a motor vehicle could result in Baby or supplies becoming projectiles in the event of a sudden stop or accident.

### Location

- ☐ Never leave Baby unattended in a public place given the potential for Baby to be mistaken for a real infant.
- ☐ Do not place Baby in or near water.
- ☐ Do not place Baby on or near a stove, especially while cooking.
- ☐ Baby should sleep somewhere close to the student's sleeping quarters, but not in bed with the student. Baby may fall out of the bed or the student could roll over on it, causing damage to Baby and discomfort to the student.

### Interaction with others

- ☐ Loud crying near people with potentially serious physical conditions, such as those susceptible to heart attack or stroke, should be avoided.
- ☐ Do not allow small children to play with Baby. Baby's hands and feet are small enough to be a choking hazard.
- ☐ Baby's crying or other sounds may cause pets to become agitated or aggressive. Keep Baby out of the reach of pets or other animals.

### Physical precautions

- ☐ To avoid straining your arms, use an infant car seat or carrier to transport Baby, rather than holding Baby at all times. Holding techniques are listed on the Student Care Card that accompanies Baby.
- ☐ Baby weighs 6.5 to 7 pounds and could cause discomfort for individuals with back pain.
- ☐ Do not operate any type of equipment or attempt tasks requiring the use of both hands while holding Baby.

### Simulation rules

- ☐ The student must never remove his or her wristband. Not only will he or she be deducted points, but the ID may be lost, or the student may stumble around in the dark looking for it if Baby cries during the night.
- ☐ The student should note in his or her diary where he or she had to delay caring for Baby because his or her safety or the safety of others may have been compromised.

Parent/Guardian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

