



Parent/Guardian Permission Form

The Maybe Baby Project

I have read and understand the following:

I give my permission for my son/ daughter to care for the Maybe Baby Infant Simulator (Baby) at home.

The aim of the project is to give young people an idea of the time, energy and commitment needed to care for a baby. I am aware that my son /daughter will be taught how to care for Baby.

Baby sounds and behaves like an infant and needs care both day and night. When baby cries, my son / daughter will attend to Baby's needs.

Baby's crying and need for care may cause my son / daughter to lose sleep, and may disturb other family members. Lack of sleep may cause drowsiness. I will not allow my son or daughter to drive if overly tired.

I agree to reimburse _____(name of school) up to \$ _____ for any damage or loss to Baby or Baby's equipment.

I agree to allow _____(student's name) to participate in the Maybe Baby Program.

Signed _____ Date _____

No, I do not wish _____(student's name) to participate in the Maybe Baby Program.

I understand that my son or daughter 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.

Signed _____ Date _____



Letter to Student's Family

Dear Parents and Family,

Our school is fortunate to have the Maybe Baby Project.

The core of the program is a parenting experience using an infant simulator. It is designed to help young adults understand three important facts about infants:

1. Infants' demands are unpredictable and must be met promptly.
2. Infants require a great deal of time and attention.
3. Infants change a parent's life profoundly. The Program helps young adults explore the emotional, social and financial consequences of parenthood.

Baby will require care throughout the day and night. Baby's schedule is based on that of a real infant. When Baby cries, it will be the student's responsibility to attend to Baby's needs. The student responds to the cry by placing the student ID near to Baby. The student must then work out what kind of care Baby needs. Baby needs to be fed, burped, rocked and to have its nappy changed. Baby will also make "happy" and "fussy" noises for brief periods of time that do not require care of use of the ID.

Baby will also cry if it is roughly handled, held in a position it does not like, or if the head is not properly supported. Although Baby will disrupt your household for a few days, just as an infant would, I am sure you will agree the valuable lesson your son or daughter will learn far outweigh a few days or minor inconvenience.

It will be your son's or daughter'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 chosen by the "parent". Help make arrangements for Baby in advance (anticipation can be a positive experience, just as it may be someday for a real baby). Be a coach for this event, not a player. Offer advice, but remember, whenever possible, it is your son's or daughter's job to do the actual work of caring for Baby.

This program may offer opportunities to talk about issues such as parenting, marriage, and relationships. These are conversations all parents try to have with children, but often parents and teenagers are too busy, the topic isn't easy to approach, or it sounds too much like lecturing. Now is a perfect time: tell stories about your child as a baby, or discuss what your feelings would be if your child were to become a parent right now.

We welcome your feedback about this program. We hope you will find time to complete the evaluation sheet.