

Child Development- Infant Care Simulation
The RealCare® Program
Unit One: Managing the infant care simulation
The
RealCare®
Program

Date: _____

Dear parents/guardians and family:

Your son/daughter will soon experience many of the responsibilities as the caregiver of a new infant. 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® Program from Realityworks.

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 he/she is 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

Letter to Student's Family