



26 May 2016

Dear Parent or Carer

[www.adeyfieldschool.org](http://www.adeyfieldschool.org)

## Child Development/Early Years

Our school is very fortunate to have the **'Baby Think It Over Programme'** under way. I hope each of you will take full advantage of the experience this can offer to the whole family. You may have seen the 'Baby' used on various TV shows.

The core of the Programme is a parenting simulation using 'RealCare Baby'. It is designed to help young adults understand three important facts about babies.

- Their demands are unpredictable and must be met promptly.
- They require a great deal of time and attention in any 24hr period.
- They change a parent's life profoundly.

The programme helps young adults explore the physical, emotional, social and financial consequences of parenthood. (Your child will experience lack of sleep, interference with social life, the financial impact of a child and the beginnings of an understanding of the enormous responsibility of parenthood).

There will be preparation classes prior to the 'birth', in Child Development classes. The actual date of 'birth', as in real life, will be a surprise. Your son/daughter will be given an EDD (estimated due date) but baby could be early or late.

Students will be given an emergency telephone number, but this is only to be used in a real emergency!

RealCare Baby will require care throughout the day and night, from Thursday evening until Monday morning. A nursery will be provided in school on Friday for those students who do not wish to take a baby into lessons, for which a charge of £1 per day will apply. The baby's schedule is based on the schedule 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 waving a wand over contact points. The student must then work out what kind of care baby needs. Does baby need to be fed, burped, rocked or have its nappy changed? Baby will also make "happy" and "fussy" noises for brief periods of time that do not require care or use of the ID. It will also "cough". The quality of love and care given will be recorded and reported back.

Baby will scream if is roughly handled, held in a position it does not like, or if the head is not properly supported. Although baby may disrupt your household for a few days just as a real baby would, I am sure you will agree the valuable lessons your son/daughter will learn far outweigh a few days of possible inconvenience.

**Look smart. Be polite. Work hard.**



It will be your son/daughter's responsibility to keep baby safe and cared for. The things he/she will be given were very expensive to buy and will be their responsibility to look after and replace if damaged or broken. You can help by providing emotional support and treating baby as if it were real. Call baby by name. Help make arrangements for baby in advance (anticipation should be a positive experience, just as if it were a real infant). Offer advice, but remember, whenever possible your son/daughter should do the actual work of caring for baby. Also, expect the experience to offer many opportunities to discuss issues such as parenting, marriage, relationships etc.

Students will be provided with a "baby" and some means of feeding and changing.

**Conditions for having a virtual baby:**

1. You are totally responsible for the safe keeping of the baby and any damage will have to be paid for by the student/parents.
2. Virtual babies must not be taken to Leisure World or any other place where you would not normally take a new born baby.
3. Students must carry them in a suitable manner, e.g. a buggy, sling or carry seat.
4. Students must have written permission from staff to take them into lessons, otherwise they will have to go in the crèche (cost £1).
5. All coursework and class work is up to date

The baby must be kept, like a real infant, in a smoke-free atmosphere and under your supervision.

Should you have any concerns, questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to wish you a happy weekend with your new "grandchild"!

If you wish your child to participate in this parenting experience, please complete and return the form below.

Yours sincerely,



**Pat Camp**  
**Teacher of Child Development/Early Years**

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**'Baby Think It Over Programme'**

I do / do not consent to my son/daughter taking part in the 'Baby Think It Over Programme'.

I have read the enclosed letter and agree to the terms  (please tick)

Please indicate if any dates would not be convenient .....

Name of Student ..... Form .....

Signed ..... Date .....

(Parent/Carer)