

Christina Self

From: Taleah Mann <taleah.mann@mercy.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 11:57 AM
To: Christina Self
Subject: BABY THINK IT OVER!

30/03/2012

Dear Christina,

Thank you for all the time that you have given us, to experience what it would be like to be a teenage mother. I think that the program is a good way to teach teenagers what they will be getting themselves into if they have unprotected sex. The program also teaches you about how you would have many struggles being a mother as a teenager and what it would be like to have a baby, while your meant to be in school getting an education, you learn about what the expenses would be if you were to have a baby as a teenager, and how you would have many problems covering all the costs of having a baby. You learn this through the way that you look after your baby, the amount of times that you have to feed the virtual baby shows you that a lot of your money would be spent on formula if you were unable to breast feed, also the amount of nappies that the baby goes through, shows that a lot of your money would also be spent on nappies.

THE GOOD EXPERIENCES ABOUT HAVING THE BABY:

The good experiences about having the baby, was to show you that having a baby isn't as easy as some teenagers may believe. I found that it was a good experience in the fact that you know what you're getting yourself into when you decide that you want a baby. I like the fact of having the baby around as well; I got quite attached to my baby and didn't want to get it back.

BAD EXPERIENCES ABOUT HAVING THE BABY:

The major bad experience about having the baby was when your sleep pattern was interrupted. Because usually, once I've been awake for a long amount of time, I'm unable to get back to sleep straight away, and that's what happened with the baby. On the first night that I had the virtual baby, it was HORRIBLE! The baby woke up at 12 and was awake for about 2 hours just crying, I tried burping it, feeding it, changing its nappy and just cradling it, but NOTHING worked. I didn't know what to do with the baby, I was stressing out, when I finally got that baby to settle down and go back to sleep, it was awake again, 2 hours later!

Another bad experience about having the baby was that my sister had a 12 hour shift on the Tuesday, and on the Monday night was when it was playing up the most, and my sister was finding it hard to sleep with how much the baby was crying.

FUNNY EXPERIENCE ABOUT HAVING THE BABY:

A funny experience about having the baby was when I went to the shops to help my mum with the shopping, so I had to take the baby with me, and when I got home from the shopping centre, someone inboxed me on face book and told me that they never remembered me being pregnant.. HAHA!

Thank you for all the time that you gave us, and the information that you told us, and teaching us everything about how hard it is having a baby, the expenses of having a baby, and also what you can catch from having unprotected sex.

Kind Regards,

Taleah Mann.
Mercy College.

Christina Self

From: Gemma Godfrey <gemma.godfrey@mercy.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 12:06 PM
To: Christina Self
Subject: Virtual Babies

Dear Christina;

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have the virtual babies they were a very good experience and well worth doing. I think that the program of the babies is excellent. It gives teenage girls a real life experience of how it would be like if they had a baby of their own.

Before I was given the baby I thought that it would be ok and that I could look after it by myself with no hassles because it's just a baby, little did I know that after the first night I wanted the baby gone after how many times I was woken and had to feed it and rock it and burp it and support the head. I had, had enough!!! It was so annoying to having in class when it went off and starts screaming and with everyone looking at me and then I had to feed it for ages and then try doing a test while the baby wants to eat. The good experiences that I had was when the baby is crying and you give it the right thing that it wants the baby makes a happy noise, my family loved it and thought it was amazing and was willing to help me out with it. This program really made me think how teenage girls who have babies of their own feel and what they have to go through every day and then having to go to school and study on top of that.

Kind regards,

Gemma Godfrey
Mercy College Year 11

Christina Self

From: Monique Koch <monique.koch@mercy.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 12:03 PM
To: Christina Self

Dear Christina,

Thank you for giving us the experience of how it would be to have to raise a child as a single teenager, I think the program is good because it given teenagers a good feel of what it is like and how hard it is to have to take care of a baby at such a young age, the program was hard but I never would have realised what it would be like to have a baby at 16, I was really happy to give the baby back at the end but I did get quite attached and could hear the baby cry even after I had given him back. this program showed me how hard it must be for some teen mums who have to do TEE as well as having a baby, and I was glad I got to experience this program because I have learnt allot from it.

Some good experiences about having the baby:

The good experiences of having the baby were,

- When the baby made the happy sound
- How my family was so interested and willing to help
- Learning that I don't want to have a baby as a teenage girl

Some bad experiences about having the baby:

The bad experiences of having the baby were,

- Having to stay up late and feed the baby
- Lack of sleep
- Not being able to do what I want
- Not being able to concentrate in class or on homework
- Having to stop what I was doing to attend to the baby
- The screaming
- Not being able to sleep because it was so loud

Kind regards,
Monique Koch
Mercy college

Christina Self

From: Rachel Dyer <rachel.dyer@mercy.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 11:55 AM
To: Christina Self
Subject: Thank you

Dear Christina

i would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to feel what it is like to be a teen mum the program has made me think about having kids i realised that if i didn't have the support or help of my family i would not have gotten through the two days. there were positives of it tho i enjoyed been able to say at the end of it that i will be a good mum at least i know i didn't kill it that was the best thing about having the babies the worst was lack of sleep and knowing i had this baby depending on me i was surprised at how much i could cope with it was very stress full but at the end of the day thank you and if i do it next year i know i'll do better.

Kind regards
Rachel Dyer

Christina Self

From: Holly Johnson <holly.johnson@mercy.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 11:56 AM
To: Christina Self
Subject: Baby think it over

Dear Christina

30/3/12

I would like to thank you for bring the baby think it over program to Mercy College. Your program brought both positive and negative effects. I enjoyed caring for a baby as I intend to have them in the future, You're program was great as it made me feel like I was caring for a legit baby.

My mother and I became very attached the baby as my motherly instincts kicked in. It was also funny to see how many pets reacted. I didn't like handing the baby back because its nice to know your useful for something, having this baby made me feel responsible as it became my life for 3 days.

The one thing I disliked about having the baby was having to wake up during the night to feed it, burp it, change its nappy and what not. I'm a girl who needs my sleep, so for me this experience was hard. Although the baby came with both positives and negatives, I enjoyed the overall experience. It teaches all young boys and girls the effect of having a baby when you're young or being single. Through this program you got to experience both being single and underage, This program has definitely worked successfully as it has put myself off having a child whilst being young. I'd encourage that this program is taught to many other people, because its useful information, and it gives us all a reality check on not to have a baby while you're young. I'd like to thank you for devoting you're time and effect into education young people like myself.

Many appreciations and Kind regards
Holly Johnson
Mercy college