

13 Practice Responsible Care Giving

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will experience the feelings of responsibility and continued care that accompanies parenting.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Infants require constant care. Young people often start their new life as a parent without realizing the amount of time, care, love and sacrifice parenting will require.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

Babies need care when . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"When I think about being a parent, I feel ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"For the next week, you will take part in a project to learn what it feels like to be totally responsible for something."

❑ STEP 4: Activity - Day 1

This activity will last one week. Review the handout **Egg Baby Parent** with students. In this activity each student adopts an egg and assumes responsibility for caring for that egg as if it were a baby. The student cares for the egg baby for seven days. Begin this activity on a Monday. Each student brings an egg to school on the first day. Supply eggs if needed. Spend the first day of class going over the assignments for all seven days. Tell students they are responsible for completing each assignment and bringing it to class each day.

Students complete the assignment for **Day One**. Supply small pieces of fabric, yarn, paper, tissue paper, glue and other art materials that students can use to draw a face, diaper and dress their egg baby. They also make an infant carrier for carrying and transporting their baby from home to school

and other places they may go. They need a small basket, box or other container to make their infant carrier.

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4	LESSON 13
EGG BABY PARENT	
You are the proud parent of your egg baby. It is your responsibility to keep your egg baby safe, warm, clothed and fed all through the week.	
You must keep your egg baby with you at all day, every day, for the next seven days. You cannot let your egg baby out of your sight. No one but you can care for your egg baby.	
Each day you will have responsibilities that are listed on your assignment sheets. You must complete each assignment. Then you will record what you have done. You also will keep a journal about your feelings each day.	
Each of the daily activities must be completed on time and will be checked by your teacher. Your grade depends on how well you take care of your egg baby and how well you complete your daily assignments.	
After you have completed your assignments, add up how much your egg baby would cost for this week.	
Cost of my egg baby for one week is \$ _____.	
Discuss these questions with your group:	
How much does baby care cost?	
Are babies easy to care for?	
Do you think you are ready to have a baby? Why?	
What do you need to do to be ready to have a baby?	
How old do you think a person should be to have a baby? Why?	
How can you learn what you need to know to raise a child?	
Good luck and work hard. Being a good parent is not an easy job.	
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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 13

Day One

- ☐ Bring your egg (raw, uncooked) to school.
- ☐ Name your egg and draw its face.
- ☐ Put a diaper and clothes on your egg baby.
- ☐ Make an infant carrier for your egg baby.

Journal: How does it feel to be a parent?

Grade: ☐

Day Two

- ☐ Make a crib and bedroom for your egg baby.
- ☐ Find out how much baby furniture costs.

\$ _____ crib

\$ _____ highchair

\$ _____ car seat

Journal: I think these three things are difficult for a parent:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Grade: ☐

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□ STEP 5: Activity - Day 2-7

Begin class each day by going over the daily assignment as specified in the handouts **Day One**, **Day Two**, etc. Then, in small groups, have students share their response on the handout from the previous day's assignment. After ten minutes, ask for students to share with the whole class. As students comment on their findings and feelings about parenting, encourage them to also think about the responsibilities of parenting. To earn a grade, students must have their egg baby with them every day, all day and each assignment must be completed on time. Allow class time for students to finish each daily assignment. For example, on the handout **Day Two** students make a crib and a bedroom for their egg baby. Have small boxes, shoe boxes, cardboard, construction paper, wallpaper and fabric scraps, glue and other art materials. Have students work in small groups to make the bedrooms.

On the handouts **Day Three** and **Day Four** students need to choose a brand of diaper and formula. Have available access to the Internet, newspaper ads, coupons and packets for new parents from hospital nurseries. Give extra credit to students who bring information about diapers, formulas and prices at various stores.

On the handout **Day Five** students investigate day care. Ask a licensed, local

day-care provider to speak to the class about costs and services. Students need to gather information by calling local day-care centers. Students who share information with the class can earn extra credit.

On the handout **Day Six** students choose a toy for their baby. Have Internet access and store ads available from local toy stores. Students who go shopping for prices and information and share this information with the class can earn extra credit.

On the handout **Day Seven** students choose a pediatrician. They can look on the Internet, call local hospitals or ask friends and neighbors who they recommend. You may want to briefly discuss medical insurance and HMOs to help students understand that choosing a doctor depends upon their health plan. On the last day of the assignment, as a summary for this activity, have students answer the questions on the handout **Egg Baby Parent**.

Help students understand that parenting is a skill a person learns over time and a good parent wants to learn ways to be a better parent.

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 13

Day Three

- ☐ What brand of diapers will you use and why? _____
- ☐ How many diapers does your egg baby use each day? _____
- ☐ How much do diapers cost per package? \$ _____

Journal: Three things I enjoy about parenthood are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Grade: ☐

Day Four

- ☐ What brand of formula will you feed your baby and why? _____
- ☐ How much formula does your egg baby drink each day? _____
- ☐ How much does it cost per container? \$ _____

Journal: Having total responsibility for my baby makes me feel:

Grade: ☐

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 13

Day Five

- ☐ Decide who will take care of your egg baby when you go to work. Will it be a relative, friend or people at a day-care center or preschool?
- ☐ Why did you choose this day-care? _____
- ☐ How much does day care cost per week? \$ _____

Journal: When someone else takes care of my baby, I feel . . .

Grade: ☐

Day Six

- ☐ What toy do you think would be good for your child? _____
- ☐ Why did you choose this toy? _____
- ☐ How much does the toy cost? \$ _____

Journal: I feel toys are important for my baby because:

Grade: ☐

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 13

Day Seven

- ☐ Choose a doctor (pediatrician) for your egg child. _____
- ☐ Why did you choose this doctor? _____
- ☐ How much will one visit to the doctor's office cost? \$ _____

Journal: Three ways I can keep my baby safe are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Journal: Three things I learned from this activity are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Grade: ☐

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☐ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

One thing I can do to be a good parent is
 “_____”

☐ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Invite one of the following speakers to speak to the class: pediatrician, nurse practitioner, day care provider or a teen-parenting teacher.

KEY WORDS

parenting

responsibility

parenthood
caregiver

day care

pediatrician

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Egg Baby Parent**, pages 161-165.
- Read through the assignments for each day. Plan to discuss assignments on a daily basis. Be ready to talk about parenting and your own personal experiences. If you do not have first-hand experience with babies, invite speakers to talk to the class. Have materials available, such as art supplies, pieces of fabric, tissue paper, wall paper, cardboard, construction paper, small boxes, shoe boxes, newspapers, store ads, phone books and packets for new parents from local hospitals.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Writing, Math, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking, Decision Making
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Self-Management, Integrity/Honesty