

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel Summary of Panel Review

Baby Think it Over (2001)

Program

Cost: \$449

RealityWorks

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends the use of this program for the following reasons and with the following reservations:**

Baby Think it Over is a program designed to examine the emotional, financial and social consequences of parenting. The unique feature of this program is a parenting simulation that uses a computerized doll to simulate the behaviors of a real infant. Students are responsible for the care of the baby for a specified period of time, during which the baby needs to be fed, changed, rocked, burped, etc. To supplement the “baby”, *Baby Think it Over* includes two instructional videos, a parenting education curriculum and operating handbook.

The panel felt that *Baby Think it Over* offers a hands-on learning experience that includes accurate information about childcare and parenting. The program does not directly address issues of gender or race/ethnicity but is presented in a way that is gender fair (boys and girls have the same opportunities to experience parenting) as well as racially, ethnically and culturally diverse (babies come in eight ethnic/racial variations.) The panel suggested that the program would be useful for expectant mothers and/or parenting classes as it teaches students basic childcare skills such as changing a diaper, giving neck support, dressing and feeding an infant, etc. It was felt that the program deals more with learning about the realities of caring for a baby, rather than making decisions around parenting. (The name implies a stronger pregnancy prevention message than the panel felt was incorporated into the program.)

The panel expressed a number of reservations about the program. They felt it was very time-intensive for both the teacher and students, and that the cost may be too high to implement in many schools or community programs. They stated that it would be most effective as part of a comprehensive sexuality education program because it does not adequately address issues such as pregnancy prevention, sexual health, or birth control.

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Review Criteria

	Mean Score
1. Technically accurate and up-to-date	4.3
2. Gender Fair	4.1
3. Sexuality Positive	2.7
4. Developmentally appropriate for age	4.0
5. Racially, ethnically, culturally non-biased	4.1
6. Sound educational methodology	2.8
7. Educational messages/strategies provided for learners at all points of risk continuum	3.2
8. Addresses the needs of all learners, including those with physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities.	2.9
9. Teacher-friendly	3.3

Scoring is based on a 5 point Likert scale, from poor (1) to excellent (5). The mean (average) is based on the assessments of the panel members who were present to review the material 05/21/02.

Panel Recommendations for Appropriate Audiences

Potential Audience	Recommend highly	Recommend	Reject	Not Applicable
General Audiences (Community groups, civic organizations, businesses, churches, community education)	4	8	4	1
School Settings (PK-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, college/adult, DD/EBD, teachers, school boards, school administrators, all personnel, youth groups)	2	15	1	0
Individual/Group Counseling (Health/social service clients at high risk and the professionals who serve them)	2	12	1	0
Multicultural/Inclusive Audiences (Addresses needs of communities of color; issues of sexual orientation, gender, disability)	2	12	1	3
Other (Describe)	0	0	0	0