

Dedicated to Delivery

Nasco's Love to Care™ Instruction Manual



Students press
the heart to
quiet the crying!

Love
to Care™
Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Love to Care™

Parenting Simulator

Used to teach time and commitment when caring for a baby:

- Babies require constant care and attention.
- A baby cries to communicate hunger, fear, pain, discomfort, need for sleep or attention, and more
- Babies change parent priorities, friendships, career paths, and family relations.
- Baby and child care are not always available or affordable.

INTRODUCTION

Parenting is work! It requires a great deal of time and energy. The demands of caring for a baby keep a parent on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Though the responsibilities of parenting are great, there are many rewards as well.

The Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator teaches students how demanding babies can be throughout the day and night. The manikin cries at random intervals, requiring action from the student parent in order to quiet the manikin.

This simulator is an excellent replacement for the “egg baby,” “flour sack baby,” and the “plant baby,” since it requires action during the middle of the night. Simpler to use than the full-featured manikins, Love to Care™ provides an easy method to give students the opportunity to experience the ongoing demands of parenting.

The manikin is 15" (38 cm) tall and weighs 13.6 oz. (386 g) without batteries. It is important that you thoroughly understand this instruction book before presenting Love to Care™ to your students. We recommend that the instructor practice with the manikin to become familiar with its operations.

This faceless manikin takes the glamour and novelty out of parenting simulation and helps teens experience the frustration and appreciate the time and patience required when caring for an infant. The experience allows students to learn about the demands of parenting without all the “fun” of dressing up a real-looking baby doll, showing it off to their friends, etc.

NOTE: The Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator is an educational tool and not a toy. It is intended for use by children over 12 years old.



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OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Batteries

The control box is powered by three "AA" alkaline batteries. **Be careful when replacing the batteries to avoid damage to the control box.** To insert the batteries, remove the control box from the manikin (Figure 1). With the control box removed, find the battery compartment door located on the back of the control box. Use a small screwdriver to remove the back (Figure 2). Install batteries, making sure the batteries are positioned correctly. Replace battery door (Figure 3) and reinsert control box into the manikin, making sure the red "Quiet" button is positioned under the heart. If the unit is not going to be used for several days, the batteries should be removed. Store the Love to Care™ Simulator without the batteries inserted.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Turning the Manikin On

Once the batteries have been installed, the manikin can be turned on. The on/off switch is hidden so students cannot turn the manikin off. **Do not** show students the location of the on/off switch. The hidden switch is designed to prevent students from shutting down the unit instead of completing the project.

To turn the manikin on, press the spot on the box marked "Nasco" and hold for two seconds (Figure 4). The power light will blink red and the manikin will cry. You will need to press the "quiet" button to stop the crying. The manikin will cry again 10 minutes later and you will need to press the "quiet" button. To turn off, simply press the "Nasco" spot and hold for two to three seconds. When the power light is blinking, the manikin is set and will cry for the first time in each 10-minute tending period at approximately the following times:

Cry 1: 70 minutes (first cry after manikin is turned on)

Cry 2: 230 minutes

Cry 3: 90 minutes

Cry 4: 140 minutes

The schedule then repeats at 230-minute, 90-minute, and 140-minute intervals. There can be some flexibility in this schedule depending on when the student responds to the cry. Remember, the first cry will happen before you give the manikin to the student. The first time it cries for the student will be 10 minutes from when you turn it on and it will only have that one cry in the first tending period.



Figure 4

Before Giving the Manikin to Student

Insert fresh or fully charged batteries in the control box. **NOTE:** Even rechargeable batteries lose their ability to hold a charge after awhile. **It is strongly recommended that high quality alkaline batteries (or fully charged batteries, if using rechargeable batteries) are placed in the unit at the beginning of every session.** The battery life is dependent on how long the baby cries during each session. This depends on the student's attentiveness during the session. If a student puts the baby in another room and doesn't hear it cry for a period of time, the strength of the battery is depleted, thus potentially ending the session.

Right before assigning the manikin to a student, turn the control box on and insert it in the body of the manikin with the "Quiet" button positioned under the heart (see page 2 for complete instructions on how to turn the manikin on). Securely close flap and hand to student. Remind them to push on the heart to quiet the manikin when it cries and needs tending. There is no reason why the student/parent should need to access or remove the control box.

Special Suggestion: When using the manikin within the school day setting, be sure to inform other faculty members about the Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator before assigning it to students. Other faculty members will be more cooperative if they are aware of the reasons for this educational activity, as well as the manikin's operations. These faculty members can be an important ally to the success of this activity!

Tending to the Manikin

When the manikin begins to cry, the student should press the heart on the chest, which is located over the "quiet" button. The manikin will immediately stop crying. After a 10-minute tending period, the manikin will start crying again. Pressing the heart (quiet button) will again stop the crying and put the manikin back to sleep. The next cry will occur per the approximate scheduled times listed on page 2.

Cleaning the Manikin

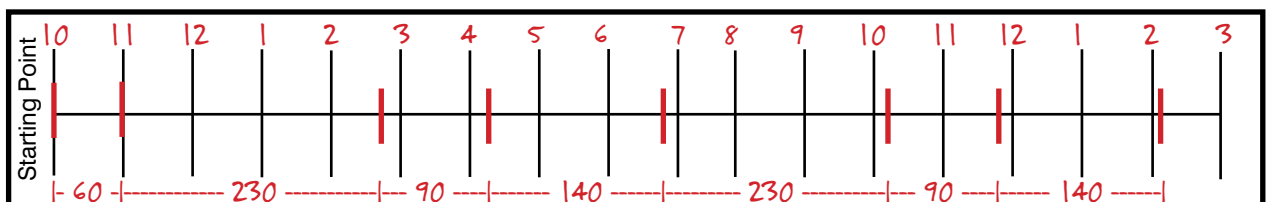
Love to Care™ is made of durable cotton blend fabric. It is stuffed with plastic pellets to add weight and polyester batting to add softness to the body. It can be hand washed and thoroughly rinsed, then rolled in a towel to absorb moisture and laid flat to dry. Control box must be removed before washing.

We recommend encouraging students to keep Love to Care™ in a cloth bag. Stress the importance of keeping the manikin clean and in good condition, as this reflects the gentle handling and care required by an infant.

EXAMPLE: Student Response Sheet

Encourage students to indicate full hours on chart and record minutes between tending periods. Intervals continue to repeat at approximately 225, 90, and 140 minutes. In the example below, **red** indicates student entries.

Turn manikin on at 9:50 am. First cry for student will be at 10:00 am. Record hours at top and minutes at bottom.



NAME _____

STUDENT RESPONSE SHEET

Starting Point

Starting Point

Starting Point

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO LOVE TO CARE™ PARENTING SIMULATOR

The Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator requires tending and will cry at various intervals. When the manikin cries, press the heart, which is located over a “quiet” button on the control box. The manikin will cry again in 10 minutes to simulate a short “tending” or care time. Push the heart (quiet button) again and the manikin will go to sleep.

To graph your time on the chart above, list the time that the manikin was turned on at the line marked “Starting Point.” Then, chart the first cry in each tending cycle and write the time when the heart (quiet button) was pushed. Each line equals one hour. Do not mark chart at the end of the tending cycle.

Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator

Parental Consent Form

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

In order to provide students with a realistic idea of the demands of parenting, your child, _____, will be participating in a parenting simulation project as part of our _____ class. This project involves caring for an electronic parenting manikin for a period of _____ day(s). The manikin cries periodically throughout the day and night. Your child will be responsible for providing proper care as if this were a real baby. The manikin should be with them at all times, except in emergency situations, when a reliable babysitter can be utilized that will record when the “care” was provided.

In order for this to be a positive learning experience for your child, we ask your support in helping to monitor student participation while they are at home. Your insistence that they alone care for their manikin will help to impress upon them the tremendous demands that a baby places on a parent’s time, energy, and social life.

The Love to Care™ Parenting Simulator is an educational tool and not a toy. It is intended for use by children over 12 years old.

We are fortunate to have been able to purchase these interactive parenting manikins. With proper care, they should last many years. Your child will be responsible for any damage that occurs as a result of abusive handling or for the loss of the manikin.

Thank you for your support during this valuable parenting simulation project. Please sign the permission slip below and have your child return it to their teacher by ____/____/____. Feel free to contact _____ at _____ or _____ if you have any questions or concerns.



Love to Care™ Permission Slip

I give my child, _____, permission to participate in the interactive parenting simulation. I understand that my child is financially responsible for any damage due to abusive handling or for the loss of the educational simulator.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please Print Name Above

parenting is forever

Having a baby and being a parent is a wonderful thing. We do not discourage that. The issue is at what point in your life do you want to become a parent? How would having a baby now affect your short and long term goals? How does becoming a teen parent alter your opportunities for furthering your education and fulfilling your career dreams? What about your social and emotional life? Would the time commitment involved in caring for a child change your growth and development as a person and affect your friendships? Do you want to be connected to your current partner for the rest of your life? What does it cost to care for a child during the first year? For 18 years? How would you support a child? A parenting simulation raises all these questions and more.

No matter what the educational philosophy of your program (abstinence only or educating teens to prepare for safe sex), the Nasco teen pregnancy simulators will be of great assistance. These hands-on tools help teens experience the frustration and appreciate the patience required when caring for an infant. Whatever your budget, we offer a full range of simulators to help bring your program to life.



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