

Abstract

RESEARCH SUBJECT: Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Education
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Teenage pregnancy rates continue to rise; therefore, preventing teenage pregnancy has become a very important concept in high school sexuality curriculum. Many schools have developed educational programs to help reduce the teenage pregnancy rate. The purpose of this study is to create a realistic parenting experience for teens (Sommers & Fahlman, 2001). Baby Think it Over (BTIO) is a classroom tool used to create unpredictable behaviors similar to a newborn. The framework for this study is the Health Belief Model developed in the 1950s by Hochbaum, Rosenstock, & Kegels. Participants selected will be high school students with a mean age of 15.8. An experimental group of 151 students will be selected with a control group of 62 students. All students will complete a pretest before the program begins. The students will then be responsible for “parent time” in which they will be solely responsible in caring for the baby. All students will then take a posttest 10-12 weeks after all students finished using the doll. Findings will provide information on the BTIO program and if it changes teens’ perception of pregnancy. The information will help determine the effectiveness of the BTIO program in teenage pregnancy education.