

Optional Activity: Flour Baby Project

1. This is an optional project that can be done simultaneously with the lesson The Balancing Act: Parenting Responsibilities.
2. If you elect to successfully incorporate this project into the lesson, it is important to create strict guidelines for your students.
3. If you choose to require your students to carry the flour babies during the school day, request prior approval from your administration. You may be required to send a letter home to parents regarding the project.
4. If the project is approved, as a courtesy, inform colleagues of the project and the project dates so they are not caught-off guard.
5. Instructions for creating a flour baby can be found in “A New Kind of Flour Baby” PowerPoint™ (see All Lesson Attachments tab).
6. Each “flour baby” will be made from a five-pound sack of flour provided by the student. A supply list and step-by-step instructions are provided in the slide presentation. Flour babies can be made at home or before and after school or in class.
7. The actual project requiring the care of the baby and documentation should last no more than five days. The project can begin on Monday and end on Friday.
8. Allow students to create and make their babies unique with their own personalities and styles, but in an appropriate manner. Do not allow tattoos, piercings, hair color, obvious deformities and so forth. Students must provide clothing for their flour babies.
9. Students must give their flour babies appropriate names. Students can create mock birth certificates and announcements for their children; this may be done in class.
10. To reinforce the concept of parenting responsibilities and the importance of caring for a child 24 hours a day, seven days per week, while at school and in class, require students to hold their babies at all times. Trunks of cars and backpacks are not cribs or child care facilities. Do not allow students to carry their babies in their backpacks.
11. Any kind of alleged “abuse,” such as throwing, hitting and/or abandonment will be an automatic 50 point deduction. This applies to reports made by any teacher, administrator or student.

Teacher Guidelines

12. Stress that students are not to distract the students in other classes with their babies. Any reports of classroom distractions will result in a deduction of 25 points. You may choose to develop and incorporate a sign-in sheet for each student and have his or her teachers initial daily, verifying that the student did not distract the class with his or her baby.
13. If a tragic loss or injury occurs to the flour baby, the student will be responsible for clean-up, NOT the custodians. Have students immediately report the incident to you. You may negotiate the penalty. Penalties range from an additional research component to a report on child abuse.
14. Students must keep a 48-hour log of caring for their babies. All 48 hours must be accounted for. This portion of the activity is worth 100 points.
15. Students will lose 25 points every time they are seen or reported being seen without their babies.
16. A record sheet will be maintained for each teacher to sign and document if students have been mistreating their flour children or distracting their classes with the flour children. Students must have this completed at the end of each class period for the week while they are caring for their children.
17. At the end of five days, students will submit a 400-word, typed personal reflection on what they learned about parenting from this experience, what their thoughts were as they took care of their “babies” and what they would have done differently. Students may include interesting moments, embarrassing moments and suggestions for improving this project.
18. Create your own set of guidelines and a rubric for your class.

Teacher Guidelines

Sample Flour Baby Rubric

Requirements	Points available	Points earned
Creation of flour baby	100	
48-hour log	100	
400-word, typed paper	100	
Birth certificate	100	
Birth announcement	100	
Caring for baby for five days	200	
Signed sheet from your teachers	100	
Total Possible Points	800	
Deduction (-)		
Deduction (-)		
Deduction(-)		
Total Points		