

“Mommy Tummy”

A pregnancy experience system simulating fetal movement

Humans are conceived in a mother’s womb. The growth and movement of the fetus in the stomach is a phenomenon only a mother is able experience. Every human cannot experience the joy of carrying a child as a mother would. But having a fetus does not come with discomfort like “bulging waistline”, “hyperemesis” and “contraction” before giving birth to the child(Fig.1).

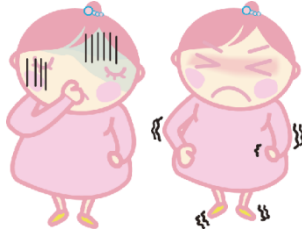


Fig.1 hyperemesis and contraction



Fig.2 Men have no burden

On the other hand, men have no physical burden and can see their baby after ninth months (Fig.2). Male humans will never have to deal with the difficulties of bearing a child and performing everyday routines and raising a family with the weight of a fetus in their body.

Due to the lack of understanding the effort needed for the development of a fetus, men usually do not put much effort to change their habits for the betterment of their child (Fig.3). For example, they may never give up smoking or give a seat up in a public area or carry heavy things for a pregnant person. Men don’t think they are bullying and causing pain, because men don’t know the difficulty of pregnancy.



Fig.3 the lack of understanding

We think if a person experiences the discomforts and joys of pregnancy, the person will become aware of a developing new life cooperate with their spouse more, and appreciate the pregnancy. We propose a pregnancy experience system called “Mommy Tummy”.

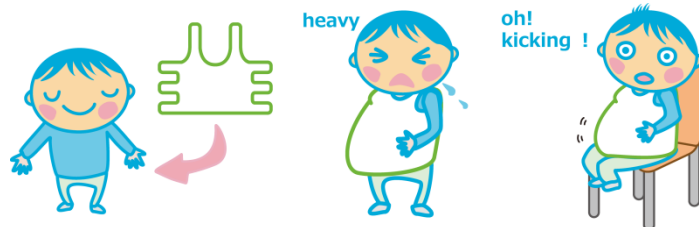


Fig.4 experience difficulty and joy of pregnancy

Mommy Tummy simulates the physical burden of pregnancy including fetal movement and fetal weight. (Fig.4). Through this experience the user can feel the joys and difficulties of pregnancy and can learn kindness, saying such things “I’ll do all of housekeeping”, “I’ll carry your bag!”

We have exhibited the system at many places (Fig.5). In our exhibition in Japan, the majority of males who tried our system were encouraged to do so by their wife or children. Some of the users told their

mothers “Thank you for bearing me”. By use the system, users can learn to pregnancy and can create a more helpful environment for pregnancy and nurturing.



LavalVirtual2010 (France)



Make:Tokyo Meeting 06(Japan)



日本海・子育て支援メッセ 2010(Japan)



YUMEMIRAI 2009(Japan)

Fig.5 Exhibitions

In the future, we will investigate the progression of fetal movement. The system simulates fetal movement from the outside to the inside. Real fetal movement happens inside to outside, but more than 80% of our users who have experienced pregnancy said “That’s similar!”, “I know this feeling” or “What a fond memory!” We will research how the users confuse outside to inside fetal movement with inside to outside fetal movement.