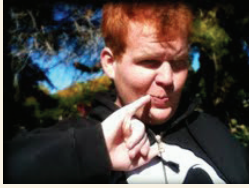


## STUDENTS SPEAK: A MyLab/Mastering Success Story

### MyVirtualChild



#### Eric Thoren

Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

**Ambition/Career Goal:** I am working on becoming a teacher and making a positive influence on the lives of all the children that I teach.

**In my free time...** I like to play video games and spend time with my fiancée and family.

**What (or who) motivates and inspires you to graduate from college?**

My fiancée inspires me most of all, as well as my mother who is a teacher and has always helped me and been there for me.

#### How did using MyVirtualChild help you succeed in your course?

MyVirtualChild is a great way to learn about human growth and development. It helped me learn a lot and was a great interactive way to use things I learned in class. I got a 100% on MyVirtualChild grade. I also had a chance to experience the possibilities of my future parenting choices and how they may affect my children. MyVirtualChild is an interactive virtual parenting session. I liked that it had realistic possibilities, like me losing my job, relationship issues because of money, situations my child could get into, and how I would handle these situations. Overall I liked everything, even the open-ended questions, because they helped me reflect on everything that happened.

#### What is the number one benefit of using MyVirtualChild?

MyVirtualChild helped my grade a lot, but I think the number one benefit was the experience itself. I learned a lot and really got into the whole parenting thing. I have always wanted to be a father, and after going through MyVirtualChild, I cannot wait to be a parent. MyVirtualChild really showed me that giving praise towards good behavior and being more lenient towards bad behavior is a good way of parenting. If you are too strict, children will want to rebel, but if you are understanding, then they will actually listen and see your side.

#### How do you think your success from using MyVirtualChild will affect your college experience/future career?

MyVirtualChild showed me that my outlook on parenting is a positive kind of parenting. Also, being a future teacher, I think it will help me handle situations between students. It also makes me want to relate more to future students when trouble arises, instead of punishing students.

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