Where do babies come from?

We examined 34 commercially-available video games that contain scenes of birth. We found that babies come from these places:

1. From the mother
2. Near the mother
3. Out of nowhere
4. Puff of smoke
5. Strategic necessity

Realism, Utility, and Taste

We asked 31 participants to play, watch a video, or watch someone play, five of the 34 games of their choice and then answer:

1. Which of the games is most and least realistic?
2. Which of the games is most and least useful, in terms of information presented?
3. Which of the games is most and least tasteful?
4. Which of the games is most and least compelling?

Do Mothers Labor Alone?

Mothers rarely labor alone.

Of 34 games, 22 showed the baby coming from a mother-woman. In 10 of the 34 games, the baby just appeared. Of 34 games, 13 showed the mother in labor. Only one woman gave birth alone (Dante’s Inferno). The rest were supported by family, friends, religious figures, and medical staff.

Least Realistic

- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Assassin’s Creed II
- Valkyria Chronicles
- Harvest Moon
- Sims 3

Most Realistic

- Assassin’s Creed II
- Big J’s Birth Game
- Fable 2
- Silent Hill 3
- Valkyria Chronicles
- Harvest Moon
- Sims 3

Least Useful

- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Dragon Quest V
- Assassin’s Creed II
- Valkyria Chronicles
- Sims 3
- Harvest Moon
- Assassin’s Creed II

Most Useful

- Assassin’s Creed II
- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Dragon Quest V
- Fallout 3
- Valkyria Chronicles
- Sims 3
- Harvest Moon
- Assassin’s Creed II

Least Tasteful

- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Harvest Moon
- Assassin’s Creed II
- Valkyria Chronicles
- Final Fantasy X-2

Most Tasteful

- Assassin’s Creed II
- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Harvest Moon
- Assassin’s Creed II
- Final Fantasy X-2

Least Compelling

- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Harvest Moon
- Alien vs Predator 2
- Final Fantasy X-2

Most Compelling

- Assassin’s Creed II
- Big J’s Birth Game
- Silent Hill 3
- Fable 2
- Harvest Moon
- Alien vs Predator 2
- Final Fantasy X-2