

Child-rearing philosophy urges responsibility

Children raised according to Dr. Benjamin Spock are turning to parenting classes for advice on raising their own offspring.

Among the methods being offered is that of Rudolf Dreikurs, author of "Children the Challenge."

Dreikurs advocates an approach to raising children which is a cross between the authoritarian parent and a relaxed one, according to group leader Gary Galen.

The next day, the Galens tried the Dreikurs method suggestion. The children stayed outside after they were called and missed dinner.

"I told her, this is our house and he can make his own breakfast," Galen said.



GARY GALEN
... let children decide

Agenda posted

Following is the agenda for the Farmington Hills council session for tonight. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 31555 Eleven Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road.

- Consideration of senior citizen housing at Drake and Freedom Roads. (Allotted time — one hour. Pro and con — three minutes per speaker.)
- Consideration of approval of extension of time to Pulte Homes of Michigan for the completion of Park area in the Farmington Green Subdivisions No. 1 through No. 5.
- Consideration of enactment of amendment to Chapter 4 of employees retirement system.
- Consideration of industrial and development lease purchase agreement and bonding resolution for GSE.
- Consideration of industrial and development lease purchase agreement and bonding resolutions for Graco.
- Consideration of a request for a new full year Class C Tavern license to be located at 28990 Orchard Lake Road (Honey Tree restaurant).
- Consideration of appointment to boards and commissions.
- Consideration of request from American Legion, Groves-Walker Post and Unit No. 346 to conduct its annual

poppy days sale in the city of Farmington Hills on May 17-18.

- Recommendation for amendments to plumbing code to conform to state requirements to update code every three years.
- Recommendation for a resolution to authorize district court employees to become members of the city retirement system.
- Recommendation for elimination of deficits in special assessment district funds.
- Recommendations of transfer of money in budget to implement recent changes in funding.
- Reports on preliminary review of the plat of Hillview subdivision.
- Report on final plat approval of Independence Expressway Service Center subdivision.
- Report on final plat approval of Independence Expressway Service Center subdivision.
- Report on the request for variance for asphalt sidewalks along Hatstead, adjacent to the Farmington Hills Hunt Club subdivision.
- Recommendation for a resolution designating the city manager as local agent to file for federal disaster relief.

The Dreikurs method allows children to make some of their own decisions. It also places responsibility for those decisions and their consequences upon the child.

When Galen, 33, and his wife took the course for the first time they used the method in coping with a family dinner-time problem. When called to come in from play for dinner, the Galen offspring often continued playing until they heard a second or third call to eat.

WITH THE SUPPORT of the rest of the class, the Galens decided to explain to their children that they would be called to dinner once. If they didn't show up to eat by the time everyone else was finished eating, they were out of luck for that meal.

"We haven't had any trouble since then," Galen said.

"My mother wouldn't have let me miss a meal," he added.

His mother probably wouldn't allow him to make his own breakfast when he was 4 years old, but Galen's son can and does make his own eggs in the morning.

Once when his mother was visiting, she suggested to her young grandson that he'd better skip making his own breakfast because he would make a mess.

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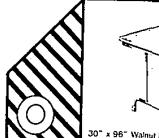
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