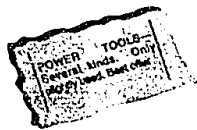


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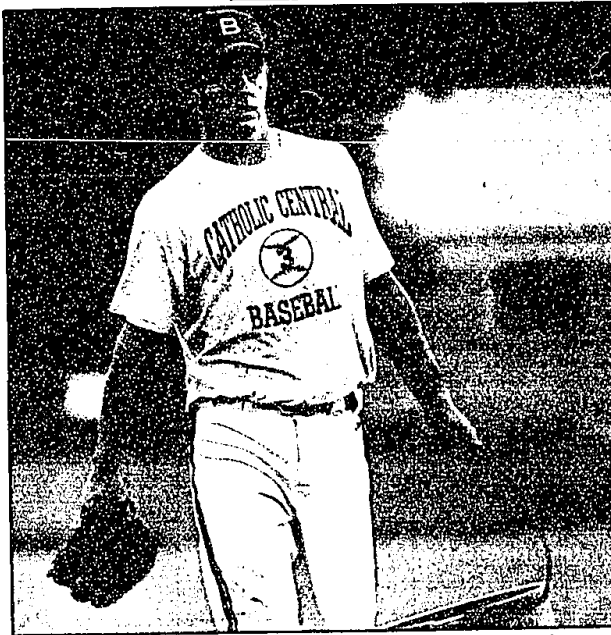
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Bucket of balls



Warm up: Farmington Hills resident and Catholic Central student Ryan McGrath, who plays for the South Farmington baseball team, retrieves balls with a mop bucket recently before a game.

Guide lists child care

Summer. School's out; kids are home; parents are frantic, looking for affordable child care that will keep their kids safe and help them grow and have fun. Where do they turn?

The Child Care Action Campaign (CCAC) has published a "Parents' Guide to Summer Child Care," designed to help parents learn about options and resources available to them.

Although many parents have already made their child care arrangements for this summer, it is only now that parents can preview the resident camps, day camps, workshops, and other programs they are considering for their children for next summer.

"This presents a golden opportunity for parents to observe summer programs in action," said Barbara Reisman, executive director of the Child Care Action Campaign.

"It's the only chance they have to watch the staff and the children interact, to observe use of equipment, safety precautions, none of which can be accurately judged by a slide show or a brochure in the middle of the winter, when one must make next summer's child care decisions," she said.

The guide, a primer for finding quality child care and a resource for parents just starting their search, is the second in a series offered by CCAC.

The first, "Child Care Primer for Parents," released last year, is a comprehensive guide that helps parents learn what resources they can use to find quality care in their communities. The "next primer will look at school-age child care, and is scheduled for a fall release."

CCAC's new "Summer Guide" has advice for parents who are searching for summer child care, lists of some of the resources available, and most important, lists of questions parents should ask to ascertain the quality of the staff and the program in summer child care situations.

A brief safety guide, and a section that describes what parents can do to increase the supply of quality summer options in their communities also are included.

Quality child care enables children to develop and thrive and enter school ready to learn. The three basic ingredients of quality child care are a safe, protective environment, the opportunity for a child to form stable relationships with caring adults and other children, and interesting, engaging activities appropriate to a child's age.

"Parents have to look long and hard for quality care, a search made all the more difficult since cost will be a key consideration for the vast majority of parents," said Reisman.

"Parents do have a way of increasing the choices available to them — by working together and with community organizations."

The "Parents' Guide to Summer Child Care" is available for \$5 from Child Care Action Campaign, 830 Seventh Ave., 17th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001; Separate copies of CCAC's Information Guide 19, "Finding Good Child Care: The Essential Questions to Ask When Seeking Quality Care for Your Child," are available free when the request is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Child Care Action Campaign (CCAC) is a national nonprofit coalition of individuals and organizations that strives to increase the availability of quality, affordable child care for the benefit of all children, their families, and the economic well-being of the nation.

Garden club plans meeting

Members of the Farmington Garden Club will enjoy a field trip Tuesday, Aug. 8 to "Heavenly Secret Herb Farm" in Ponton.

They will have lunch at the Old Ponton Hotel. Members are forming a car pool. The public is invited to attend.

If interested call Ann Andette at 674-1828.

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