

Suburban Life

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Students learn to be first-rate baby sitters

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Katie McDonald and Laura Palazzo are well on their way to being uptop baby sitters.

Katie and Laura were among those who attended a baby-sitting clinic for 11-15-year-olds, held last week at the Farmington branch of the Farmington Community Library. During the four-day program, the young people learned the basics of safe and responsible baby-sitting.

"It'd help me when I go baby-sitting," 11-year-old Laura said of her reason for signing up. She has enjoyed the program, where she learned "how to be better at everything, and in case of emergencies, what to do."

"Because there's a lot of things to talk about, you're not bored."

Katie, who is 13, has also benefited from the baby-sitting clinic.

"Just some tips, tips to help me feel more confident," she said. "I like kids, I like working with them."

Just what does it take to be a good baby sitter?

"Care, and you have to enjoy it," Katie said.

"Confidence, I guess."

A VARIETY of areas were covered during the four-day program, said Nancy Hasek, young adult librarian for the Farmington library branch.

The program is designed to instill confidence, and to provide "knowledge about being a safe and responsible baby sitter and creative ideas for entertaining the children."

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Public health nurse Linda Bender works with students at a baby-sitting clinic at the Farmington library branch.



Jeni Cook practices picking up a baby the right way.



Lisa Marunich is careful to support the doll's head.



Laura Palazzo reviews some tips for baby sitters.