



CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT SERVICES POLICY

Adopted Date: December 2012

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Introduction

The Wainfleet Township Public Library recognizes the needs of young people are important in their own right; that their intellectual growth, their cultural appreciation and recreational activities should be fostered through quality library service, delivered with consideration and respect. This policy sets out the services to be offered for children and teens.

Rights of the Child

The Wainfleet Township Public Library endeavours to provide this service based on the principles stated in the Ontario Library Association's Children's Rights in the Public Library, 1998, See Children's Policy.

Section 1: Scope

The services described in this policy are intended to meet the needs of children and teens, as well as parents, guardians and adults who work with children or are interested in children's literature.

Section 2: Services

1. Collections

- a) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will ensure the maintenance and organization of a comprehensive children's and teen's collection based on the Collection Development Policy.
- b) The children's and teen's collections will meet high standards of quality and reflect the changing educational needs and personal interests of children and teens as well as trends in society.
- c) The staff will develop profiles of the collections to define the scope and to address the issues of:
 - i. Canadian authors and content
 - ii. Award-winning titles
 - iii. Non-fiction material that complement the local school curriculum
 - iv. Age appropriate formats

2. Reference and Readers Advisory

- a) The qualified staff will utilize the full range of collections, technology and methods to answer all users' requests for advice on selecting books and for information, regardless of age and without judgment, with confidentiality and respect.
- b) Library staff should conduct interviews to better understand what each child and teen wants and needs.
- c) Library staff will point out the variety of resources available in all areas of the library as appropriate.

3. Library Space

- a) The library will provide well-planned areas for children and teens that are distinct from the adult area.
- b) These areas should be visually stimulating so that children and teens are able to readily distinguish their own space from the rest of the library.
- c) These areas will have furniture, shelves and equipment that are designed for and accessible to all children.
- d) The library will ensure that signage is clear and age appropriate.
- e) The children's and teen's areas are interactive learning environments where controlled noise levels are tolerated and where young users are invited to explore the library materials and services in their own way.

Section 3: Staffing

1. The board will support a program of ongoing staff training and professional development in children's and teen's services.
2. The CEO will ensure that all staff members assigned to children's and teen's services receive appropriate training to provide knowledgeable library service.
3. While library staff will assist young people with finding materials, using the Internet or attending programs, they do not act in "loco parentis". Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's use of the library.

Section 4: Advocacy for Children and Teens

1. The library will advocate for children's and teens' services in the community by:
 - a) Collaborating with agencies to promote early literacy, love of reading, lifelong learning and children's and teens' health and well-being
 - b) Seeking support for children's and teens' services from community organizations, fundraising, donations, etc.

- c) Networking with other agencies who provide service to children and teens in the community, region and province
- d) Communicating with principals, teacher librarians and teachers in the community
- e) Promoting the children's and teens' services and collections to groups who could benefit from them (schools, daycares, etc.)
- f) Welcoming class visits and orientation for school children and home schooled children

Related Documents:

Collection Development Policy
Unattended Children's Policy
Circulation Policy
Children's Policy