
**BARRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH SERVICES POLICY**

MOTION #09-20

Revised June 25, 2009

The Barrie Public Library provides library service for children to assist in developing full potential. The Barrie Public Library Board endorses the Children's Rights in the Public Library adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting, November 1998 (attachment A).

1. BUILDING

The Library provides a pleasant and inviting atmosphere for children and youth by:

- assigning areas specifically designated for children and youth
- having an area specifically designed for children's programming separate from daily library service areas
- having furniture, shelves and equipment that are designed for and accessible to all children
- ensuring that signage is clear and legible for children.

2. STAFFING

The Library provides staff skilled in working with children and youth, by:

- employing a children's and youth services librarian as a specialist
- ensuring that all staff in children's and youth services are eligible to serve on committees and attend workshops, courses and conferences related to the entire library field
- identifying and pursuing an active programme of ongoing staff training and professional development in children's and youth services
- ensuring that staff receive training in children's and youth services in order to provide knowledgeable library service
- ensuring that advancement is not restricted for children's and youth services staff.

3. RESOURCES

The Library provides a wide range of materials in all formats to fulfill the informational, cultural, learning and leisure needs of children and youth by:

- ensuring a materials selection policy that reflects the characteristics inherent to children's and young adult collections (see Collection Development Policy)
- evaluating the children's and young adult collections on an ongoing basis
- ensuring that adequate funds be made available to support the development of a children's and young adult collections that is up-to-date, in good condition and generally attractive
- ensuring that the children's and young adult collections is organized for easy access and with children's and youth capabilities in mind

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- providing materials representing Canadiana, multicultural and bilingual literature, traditional literature, literature designed to serve special groups and popular and ephemeral materials, keeping in mind the needs of the children and youth of the community.

4. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Library provides children and youth with open access to information and facilities throughout the Library by:

- providing library service for children and youth with the respect and consideration assured to all patrons
- ensuring that library procedures support the Children's and Youth Services Policy
- ensuring the public has access to policy statements.

5. PROGRAMMES

The Library provides programmes for children and youth, both in and out of the library, to foster literacy, enhance recreational, cultural and educational needs and to promote the use of the collection by:

- ensuring that adequate funds are made available to support all children's and youth programmes
- providing a variety of programmes furthering the informational, cultural, learning and leisure interests of all ages
- cooperating with community agencies and schools in providing children's programmes

Some programmes may be offered on a cost recovery or revenue generating basis.

6. PROMOTION

The Library actively promotes a variety of formats of Library services to children and youth by:

- publicizing library activities and services for children and youth on a regular basis utilizing local media
- producing publications related to children's and youth services and activities as a regular and ongoing part of the Barrie Public Library's publicity programme
- posting information on the Kids Corner and Teen Territory section of the web site.

7. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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The Library communicates and cooperates with other community groups and organizations devoted to serving children and youth by:

- actively encouraging the continued cooperation of schools and other community groups in the use of the Library
- providing expertise and support for community groups and organizations serving children and youth.
- participating in community collaborative efforts.

8. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT

The Library expects parents to:

- monitor the use of services and collections by their children
- be responsible for borrowed materials and fines incurred by their children
- not leave unattended children requiring supervision, in or about Library premises
- while the Library tries to make all Internet terminals visible staff cannot always monitor Internet use.

ATTACHMENT "A"

OLA Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library

Children in Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.

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8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.

9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting, November 1998

Motion #00-56	Revised May 25, 2000
Motion #02-45	Reviewed October 10, 2002
Motion #03-38	Revised October 23, 2003
Motion #04-39	Revised October 28, 2004
Motion #06-39	Revised November 23, 2006
Motion #09-20	Revised June 25, 2009 (formerly Children's Services Policy)
All Staff\Policies\Children's and Youth Services	