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

MOTION #17-35

Revised June 22, 2017

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The Barrie Public Library provides library service for children and youth to assist in developing their 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) and the **Teen Rights in the Public Library** adopted at the Ontario Library Association General Meeting, June 2010 (attachment B)

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 program 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 the children's and young adult collections are organized for easy access and with children's and youth capabilities in mind
- providing materials representing Canadian, multicultural and bilingual literature, traditional literature, literature designed to serve special groups and popular and

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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. PROGRAMS

The Library provides programs 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 programs
- providing a variety of programs furthering the informational, cultural, learning and leisure interests of all ages (some programs may be offered on a cost recovery basis)
- liaising with community agencies and schools in providing children's and youth programs

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 and social 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 program
- posting information on the Kids and Teen sections of the web site.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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- 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 such as serving on multi-agency committees and participating in school and community events

8. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT

The Library expects parents to:

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

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.
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

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ATTACHMENT “B”

9. TEEN’S RIGHTS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Goals for Library Services for Teens:

Young people are valuable members of our library community who deserve the same respect, dignity and human rights as all library members. This document provides a framework for developing library services to teens that meet the educational, informational, and cultural and leisure needs of young people in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Each public library has a different community to serve and therefore different priorities and needs. Although specific services for teens have not been well established in all libraries, these goals are created in the belief that young adulthood is a unique life stage and that young adults are entitled to the same quality of library services offered to other age groups in the population. *(Adapted from the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults, 2006 and the YALSA Guidelines for Library Services to Teens, Ages 12-18, 2006.)*

The goal of library services for teens is to assist with the transition from children’s services to adult services and to provide access to both resources and an environment that meets the needs of young people for intellectual, emotional and social development. Specifically these needs are based on the unique seven developmental needs of adolescents and the five core values of quality service to teens:

7 Developmental Needs of Teens	5 Core Values of service to teens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical activity, • Competence and achievement, • Self definition, • Creative expression, • Positive social Interaction with Peers and Adults, • Structure and Clear Limits, • Meaningful Participation <p>Excerpted from: Dorman, G. (1981). <i>The Middle Grades Assessment Program: User’s Manual</i>. Carrboro, NC: Center for Early Adolescence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting and responding to unique YA needs, • Providing equal access, • Empowering Youth through participation, • Engaging Teens in active collaboration, • Supporting healthy youth development. <p>Core Values excerpted from Jones, P. (2002). <i>New directions for library service to young adults</i>. Chicago: American Library Association.</p>

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Teens in Ontario Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom

The library establishes clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by young adults to library resources and information sources; respect for the rights of young adults to select materials appropriate to their needs without censorship. The library's teen collection, policies and services should be consistent with the concepts of intellectual freedom defined by the CLA, OLA and Ontario Human Rights code.

2. Equal access to the full range of materials, services, and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their unique needs.

The Library integrates library service to teens into the overall plan, budget and service program for the library. Library service to teens is integrated with those offered to other user groups.

3. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.

The Library incorporates funding for materials and services for teens in the library operating budget and ensures there is equitable distribution of resources to support programs and services for young adults.

4. Collections that specifically meet the needs of teens

The Library provides a wide spectrum of current materials of interest to young adults to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development. The library endeavors to develop collections that encourage leisure reading, support homework and school success and respond to gender and cultural diversity. The library provides unfettered access to technology including social networking, licensed databases, and other online library resources for teens.

5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.

The Library provides identifiable spaces for teens that are separate from children's spaces where possible, reflects their lifestyle and allows for teens to use this library space for leisure or study, either independently or in groups.

6. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service at every service point.

The Library promotes friendly, positive, non-biased customer interactions with teens, providing staff development and training and ensures that services for teens embrace cultural and gender diversity and economic differences. Library staff will endeavor to respect the teen's need for privacy and nonjudgmental service and assist young adults in

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acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information literate.

7. Library Programs and Services appropriate for Teens

The Library fosters youth development by providing programs for teens that contribute to literacy, life- long learning and healthy youth development. The library endeavors to provide volunteer opportunities for helping others through community service hours including participating on Library Advisory Boards, and other projects that help develop a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The library's teen services initiatives are effectively managed according to best practices in the field of Youth Services.

8. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in teen services.

Library staff is knowledgeable about adolescent development and age appropriate resources for young adults inclusive of those with special needs. The library provides services by teen specialists as well as by others who are trained to serve teens.

9. 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 teen services.

The Library works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

10. Library policies are written to include the needs of the youth.

Adopted by the Ontario Library Association General Meeting, June 2010.

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)
Motion #11-16	Revised April 28, 2011
Motion #14-36	Revised November 27, 2014
Motion #15-27	Revised June 25, 2015
Motion #16-34	Revised June 23, 2016
Motion #17-35	Revised June 22, 2017