

## 1. Objective

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We recognize the importance of meeting your needs as a child or teen, as well as those who work with you. Our Library promotes your intellectual growth, cultural appreciation, and recreational activities.

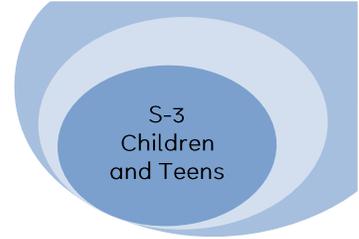
## 2. Rights of the Child

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Our services are based on the principles stated in the Ontario Library Association's *Children's Rights in the Public Library, 1988*. The statement reads as follows:

Children in Public Libraries have the right to:

- a) intellectual freedom
- b) equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users
- c) a full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs
- d) adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use, and local library needs
- e) a library environment that complements their physical and developmental phases
- f) trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services
- g) welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to the adult user
- h) an advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipality, and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services
- i) library policies written to include the needs of the child.



## 3. Our Service Commitment

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### Collections

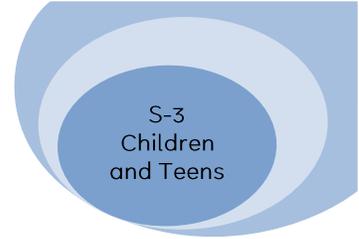
- a) We maintain and organize a comprehensive children's and teens' collection to reflect your changing needs and personal interests.
- b) We include the following in our collection:
  - Canadian authors and Canadian content
  - award-winning titles
  - multicultural and multilingual literature to meet the needs of the community
  - literature designed to serve all reading levels and abilities
  - a variety of values and opinions that introduce children to the global community
  - non-fiction complementary to the local school curriculum; and
  - age-appropriate material.

### Information Services

- a) We provide a variety of resources, including access to online material, at every branch.
- b) We can help you select books and obtain information.
- c) We talk to you to better understand what you want or need.
- d) Our service is confidential, respectful, and non-judgmental.

### Programs

- a) We provide programs for you and your parents, at the Library and elsewhere, to encourage creativity, reading, independent learning, and use of the Library.
- b) We provide entertaining educational and literary programs for you, including library orientation and programs for summer and school breaks. We also provide early literacy programs involving caregivers, teachers, and daycare providers.
- c) We may limit the number of participants in a program based on the size of the facility, availability of staff, and the nature of the program.
- d) We may limit some programs to certain ages or grade levels.



## **4. Library Space**

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We provide areas designed specifically for you, separate from those for adults.

- a) Your areas contain furniture, shelves, and equipment that are easy for you to use.
- b) We ensure that you can understand our signs.
- c) We tolerate some noise level in your area and invite you to explore our materials on your own.

## **5. Responsibilities**

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- a) As a child or teen member of the Library, you bear the same responsibilities as any other Library member. See our Code of Conduct and Membership & Borrowing Policy for more information.
- b) We train our staff in the skills they need to help you.
- c) While our staff are there to assist you, your parents or caregivers are there to ensure that you use the library responsibly. Staff are not responsible for the direct supervision of anyone under the age of ten.

## **6. Advocacy**

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Our staff advocate for the library services you need by:

- a) working with community agencies to provide programs focused on early literacy, love of reading, and lifelong learning
- b) seeking funding from community organizations; and
- c) communicating with your principals, teachers, and daycare providers.