



Policy Type: **Operational**
Policy Title: **Children's and Youth Services**
Policy Number: **OP 03**

Intent

The Brock Township Public Library strives to provide library service for children and youth that will enhance their intellectual growth, cultural appreciation, and interest in recreational activities. Services set out in this policy are also intended to meet the needs of parents/guardians, and other adults, who work with children, or are interested in children's literature.

Collections

1. The Library will maintain a comprehensive children's and youth collection based on the Collection Policy
2. The collections will meet accepted professional standards and reflect the changing educational needs and leisure interests of children and youth, as well as societal trends.

Community Outreach

1. The Library will actively encourage schools and community agencies in the use of the library.
2. The Library will collaborate with schools and community agencies in the promotion of early literacy, lifelong learning, and child and youth health and well-being.
3. The Library will, where practical, work with schools and agencies to minimize programming conflicts and maximize programming opportunities for children and youth.
4. The Library will encourage class visits and provide orientation tours for both school and home schooled children.
5. The Library will, where possible, provide outreach services to schools including participation at appropriate school functions/events.

Library Space

1. The Library will provide, where possible, distinct children and teen spaces that are separate from adult areas.

2. These areas will be visually stimulating including displays, posters, and other decorative elements appealing to children.
3. These areas will have furniture, shelves and equipment designed for, and accessible to, children.
4. The Library will ensure that signage is clear and age appropriate.
5. The children and youth areas will be interactive environments where controlled noise levels will be tolerated. Users will be encouraged to explore materials and services in their own way.

Programs

1. The Library will provide programs for children, youth and parents that stimulate creativity, encourage reading, and facilitate independent learning and library usage.
2. The Library Board will ensure that adequate funds are made available to support children and youth programs.
3. Staff will actively involve youth in the planning and implementation of programs for this demographic.
4. Participation in some programs may be limited to accommodate space, staff supervision, fire and other health and safety concerns.
5. Age and/or other parameters may be applied to some programs to maximize the benefit to program participants.
6. Programs may be offered on a cost recovery basis.

Reader's Advisory and Reference

1. Staff will utilize all appropriate collections, technologies and methods to answer user requests for reader's advisory and reference assistance, regardless of age and with respect and discretion.
2. Staff will conduct interviews to fully understand each child/youth's request. Reader's advisory/reference interviews will be age appropriate.

Staffing

1. The Library will employ a Coordinator, Outreach and Programming, who will work with library staff to provide children's and youth programming at each branch.

2. The Library will support ongoing staff training, and professional development, in the area of children's and youth services.
3. Library staff will assist children and youth in locating materials, using the Internet, and participating in programs.
4. Library staff **will not act in "loco parentis"**. Parents/guardians are responsible for the children's use of the library's resources.
5. *Children, 9 years and younger, must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver while in the library.*

History

Motion #	Date	Action
2013-05-09	May 14, 2013	Approved
2016-08-06	August 23, 2016	Amended