

Children and Young Adult Services

The mission of the Children and Young Adult Services is to introduce children of all ages to the wonders of books and install a love of reading. Programs offered are to be both entertaining as well as educational. The Children's Librarian shall develop programs for children of pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school ages, as well as, if necessary, for special needs and Spanish-speaking patrons.

Programs

The Kingston Public Library currently offers a pre-school program. During the summer months a more extensive program is offered to children twelve (12) and under. The "Summer Reading Program" is closely tied to the theme established by the State Library and Archives. The program is normally four weeks in length, although extended periods are possible.

Collection

The book, video and audio collection at the Library is divided into three specific groups: Easy – for pre-school and early elementary age students; Juvenile – for Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grades, and Young Adult – for Seventh thru Twelfth grades. This collection includes both non-fiction as well as fiction items. The Director will ensure that the collection is up-to-date and follows current trends. The Library promotes the use of the Tennessee Electronic Library (www.tel.org) as a source for databases and research materials.

Behavior

Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to participate in and monitor their child's library use. Library staff members do not restrict a child's access to library collections. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for the fines/fees for minor children under 18 years of age.

While it is important for children of all ages to enjoy their library experience, it is important that participation does not interrupt other patrons from enjoying their library experience. It shall be the responsibility of the Children's Librarian to ensure that all children, as well as their parents, are made aware of library rules and accepted behavior. The Library is not a day-care, where young children can roam freely without parental supervision. The Library has provided an area where pre-school and elementary school age children can read, sit and talk, and play with building blocks and Lego sets.

As a public facility, we are especially concerned about the safety of children who visit the libraries. We urge parents to use the same care and caution concerning the whereabouts of their children as when visiting any other public place such as the shopping mall.

- **Children four years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times.**
- **During library programming for children ages 8 and under, the parent/guardian of children must stay in building. A parent or caregiver must accompany a child aged eight (8) or younger while the child is using a multi-media computer.**
- **Older children (12 and up) who are left at the library to browse or complete assignments should know the number where a parent can be reached and should be picked up prior to closing.** For safety reasons, children who have not been picked up by the posted hour of closing may be given into the care of police.
- **If a child becomes disruptive, or exhibits signs of illness, the parent/guardian will be asked to remove the child from the program area.** Children who are sick should stay at home.

No children, regardless of age, shall be left in the care of a Library staff member or volunteer. Children who are disruptive will be asked to leave; if no parent or guardian is present, a staff member will make every effort to contact the child's parent or guardian. If unable to reach a parent or guardian, the staff member shall call the appropriate law enforcement agency.

If, due to emergency, or closing of the library due to closing or other scheduling needs, a child has been left unattended, the staff members on duty shall not leave that child alone outside the library facility. Every effort will be made to contact that child's parent or guardian. If the staff members are unable to reach a responsible adult to pick up the child the staff members shall notify the local law enforcement agency.

Adults are welcome to use the collection in order to find books or DVDs, teachers and tutors are encouraged to seek resources, and adults accompanying a child are welcome to use the room and maintain close supervision of the child they are with. However, adults seeking a place to sit, read, study, or use laptops or other devices will be asked to do so in the adult areas. Adults over the age of 18 not accompanying a child may be asked to leave the Youth Services area at any time.

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