

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY

### THE WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

#### 1. PREFACE

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library provides library service for children of all ages to assist in developing the full potential of each child. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Board endorses the Children's Rights in the Public Library Statement adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting, November 1998 (attachment A).

#### 2. BUILDING

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

- assigning an area specifically designated for children,
- having furniture, shelves and equipment that are designed for and accessible to all children,
- ensuring that signage is clear and legible for children.

#### 3. STAFFING

The Library provides trained staff with rapport with children by:

- employing a children's librarian as a specialist,
- ensuring that all staff in children's 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 services,
- ensuring that staff receive training in children's services in order to provide knowledgeable library service,
- ensuring that advancement is not restricted for children's services staff.

#### 4. RESOURCES

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

- ensuring a materials selection policy that reflects the characteristics inherent to children's collection,
- evaluating the children's collection on an ongoing basis,
- ensuring that adequate funds be made available to support the development of a children's collection that is up-to-date, in good condition and generally attractive,
- ensuring that the children's collection is organized for easy access and with children's 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 of the community.

5. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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

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

6. PROGRAMMES

The Library provides programmes for children, both in and out of the library, to stimulate the child's imagination and desire to learn and to promote the use of the collection by:

- ensuring that adequate funds are made available to support all children's 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,
- offering some programmes on a cost recovery or revenue generating basis.

7. PROMOTION

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

- publicizing library activities and services for children on a regular basis utilizing local media,
- producing publications related to children's services and activities as a regular and ongoing part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library's publicity programme,
- posting pertinent information about children's services on the Library web site.

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Library communicates and cooperates with other community groups and organizations devoted to serving children 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,
- participating in community collaborative efforts and providing outreach to schools and daycares.

9. 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 in or about Library premises,
- monitor the use of the Internet by their children.

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 programmes 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