JOHN & JULIE SCHMIDT CHILDREN'S AREA USE POLICY

PURPOSE

The Appleton Public Library ("Library") welcomes people of all ages to use its facilities and services. To ensure the safety and well-being of children and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use, the following policy regarding appropriate use of the John and Julie Schmidt Children's Area ("Children's Area"), including the Boldt Learning Stairs, is adopted. Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child's safety and behavior while in the library, whether the parent/caregiver is present or not.

POLICY

1. Intended Use

The materials, services, and equipment in the Children's Area are intended for use by children up to the age of 12, their parents and caregivers, and others needing children's materials and services for a specific purpose. All other patrons are asked to use the adult areas of the library. Parents and caregivers should generally be with the child in their care and assisting the child in using library resources.

Other intended uses include:

a) Use by an educator, researcher, artist, etc., in developing curricula, projects, or other resources related to children's literature or materials.

b) Use by a patron over age 12 when materials suitable to the patron's particular needs are not available in the adult areas of the library.

c) Tour groups, visiting librarians, library volunteers, teachers, city officials, tradespeople, or others visiting the Children's Area for business-related purposes.

2. Prohibited Activities

The following activities, in addition to any other activity prohibited by policy, ordinance, or statute, are prohibited in the Children's Area:

a) Using materials, services, or equipment inappropriately.

b) Viewing content that depicts extreme violence, or mature adult themes and situations.

c) Adults or teenagers lingering without purpose in the area.

3. Enforcement

Library staff is authorized to enforce this policy and may request that any persons using the Children's Area inappropriately or not for its intended use leave the Children's Area or the library, pursuant to the library's Safety and Security Policy.

Approved: 4/03; 8/16; 12/16; 11/2021; 12/2024