

MOUNT VERNON CITY LIBRARY

9. YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

9.01 PURPOSE

This policy is intended to ensure an atmosphere of safe, constructive and appropriate use of the Library by children, their parents and caregivers.

9.02 GOALS

- To provide a collection of print and non-print materials that meet the educational and recreational needs of youth from birth through nineteen years of age.
- To help people access the collection by providing excellent reference and reader's advisory services.
- To provide programming that promotes reading and library use.

9.04 RESPONSIBILITIES

9.04.010 Library Staff

The Mount Vernon City Library welcomes and encourages children to use the library. Library staff members are trained to help children with library materials and provide appropriate programs. The library strives to provide a safe and appropriate environment for all library patrons, however staff cannot oversee every area.

9.04.020 Parents

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, comfort and behavior of their children while in the library.

9.04.030 Children

Children must follow the same Code of Conduct policy as is expected of all library patrons.

9.06 UNATTENDED CHILDREN

9.06.010 Age Guidelines

Children under eight years of age must not be left alone. A parent or caregiver must be in the same area of the library as their children and in close proximity to them.

Children twelve years of age and older may use the Library unattended provided they follow the Library Code of Conduct.

9.06.020 Vulnerable Child

A vulnerable child is an unattended child of any age who is deemed by the staff to be at risk.

If an unattended or vulnerable child comes to the attention of Library staff, attempts will be made to notify the parent/caregiver. If Library staff or unattended children fail to contact the parent/caregiver after one-half hour, Library staff will contact the police.

One-half hour before closing Library staff will make an effort to ensure that there are no unattended children in the Library. Unattended children will be allowed to use the Library phone to contact a parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver does not pick up the children within a half-hour of the library closing, Library staff will contact the police.

Library staff will not transport anyone under 18 years of age under any circumstances.

9.07 YOUTH SERVICES COLLECTION

9.07.010 Selection

The collection of the Youth Services Department is intended to meet the informational, recreational and cultural needs of children through age 19. The Material Selection Policy (Chapter 5) describes the different collections and the criteria used to select them.

9.07.020 Access to Materials

The collection contains materials that express a wide variety of views. It is, therefore, the responsibility of parents/guardians or assigned caregivers to decide what is appropriate for their child/children.

9.08 PROGRAMS

9.08.010 Planned Programs

The Youth Services Department offers programming for youth from birth through age 19.

9.08.020 Summer Reading Program

The Library provides a Summer Reading Program for youth from age two years through age 19 years.

- Staff visit local schools to promote the Summer Reading Program.
- Presenters are hired for the Summer Reading Program as budget allows. Summer Reading programs may include professional entertainers, educational programs provided by local agencies, and programs created by staff.
- Youth who participate in the program receive reading incentives and recognition for their reading efforts.

9.10 HOMEWORK

The Youth Services Department contains a variety of materials to provide information for the homework and research needs of school age youth. Youth Services staff provide assistance in finding materials, and instruction in the use of reference materials, PAC computers and electronic resources.

9.12 LIBRARY TOURS and SCHOOL VISITS

Library tours and school visits will be scheduled as time and staff schedules permit. Requests for visits and tours may be made by calling the Youth Services Department.

Approved by the Board of Trustees November 2, 2000

Revised by the Board of Trustees December 3, 2009