

I. Purpose

The mission of the Youth Services Department is to guide young people toward a love of reading and learning in a welcoming and safe environment. We provide access to children’s materials and programs and make information and cultural opportunities available to children and adults involved in children’s lives.

The materials, services, furniture and equipment in the Nyack Library Children’s Room are intended for use by children from birth to age 11, their parents/caregivers, and others needing children’s materials and services for a specific purpose, [such as research or study]. All other Library users are asked to use the adult or teen areas of the Library as appropriate.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child’s safety, behavior and use of Library resources while in the Library whether the parent/caregiver is present or not. The Youth Services staff will do their best to provide a safe environment, but the Library assumes neither responsibility nor liability for the actions, behavior, care, and/or supervision of minors except during specified Library programs.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or responsible individual 14 years of age or older, must accompany children under age 10 when they are using the Library. This individual must supervise, and assume responsibility for the behavior of the children under their care.

II. Patron Access to Children’s Room Services

1. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver age 14 and above while in the Library.
2. Children ages 10-11 are welcome to use the Children’s Room without a guardian provided they obey Library rules and demonstrate respect for Library staff, patrons and property.
3. Children ages 4 through 9 years of age attending a Library program must be brought into the building by a parent or responsible childcare provider, who must remain in the building until the conclusion of the program when they resume supervision of their child. Children under the age of 4 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver at all Library programs.
4. When a child under age 10 is left unattended, Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, staff will contact the Orangetown Police Department. In the event of an emergency, staff will call 911. At least two staff members will remain after hours with an unattended child until the parent or guardian or police arrive.
5. Regardless of age, patrons who violate Library policies may be asked to leave the Library premises and/or may have their Library privileges suspended.

III. Children’s Room Technology:

1. The Children’s Room currently has technology available for use by children for research and entertainment purposes. All devices with Internet access are equipped with filtering software that blocks graphics and text that are explicitly sexual and/or violent. Filtering software, however, cannot guarantee protection from all inappropriate sites, and Library staff cannot

monitor individual Internet use. For this reason, supervision of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver.

2. The Youth Services Department has tablet devices available for checkout and use within the Children's Room by an adult (age 18 and older) Nyack Library cardholder in good standing and the children accompanying them.
3. Children under the age of 5, who are using any Library technology, must have a parent/caregiver seated with them to supervise its use. The parent/caregiver will be held responsible for damage that occurs while the child is not adequately supervised.
4. While priority for computer use will always be given to children, parents accompanying young children in the Children's Room may use a computer for personal use for short periods of time while continuing to monitor and supervise their children.

Approved by The Nyack Library Board

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