

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Board of Trustees

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM POLICY

The Weber County Library provides programs for children and their caregivers to promote the joy of reading and independent learning, stimulate creativity and curiosity, and encourage collaboration and community growth. The primary goal of children's services programming is to foster enthusiasm for lifelong learning and innovation, promote cultural enrichment, and introduce young learners to the library's role as a free community resource and third space.

It is the intent of children's services programs to:

- Encourage the love of books and reading.
- Introduce children to the importance of information literacy.
- Create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the library and its materials.
- Provide learning opportunities that represent a diversity of experiences, opinions, and social and cultural perspectives.
- Encourage children to participate in programs by planning around their developmental stages and needs.
- Stimulate and encourage thinking and learning.
- Promote the self-esteem and personal worth of every child.
- Recognize and address the needs of caregivers.
- Focus on ideas and materials that provide exposure to new concepts and information.
- Encourage collaboration with others.

Programs:

Programs provide a springboard for the showcasing of books, audiovisual materials, educational toys, and online resources to encourage reading and further learning. These programs may include some or all of the following: infant/toddler and preschool Discovery Time, after-school and STEAM programs, summer reading programs, bilingual storytime, film screenings, and special one-time or sequenced programs. All children's programming is free and open to the public.

Caregivers are an integral part of their children's learning experiences. They are encouraged to participate with their children in such a way as to foster independent learning and experimentation. As children's programs are specifically designed for the developmental stages and needs of children, it is recommended that the age guidelines for these programs are respected in order to provide the best learning experience for those attending. Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult while attending programs. If a child becomes disruptive and does not respond to instruction, or they feel ill, they may be asked to leave the program.

Through its children's services programs, the library works closely with all of its communities, emphasizing services to those who have not traditionally been library users, to encourage them and the significant adults in their lives to use library resources.

The library establishes and maintains ties with community agencies, including schools, to coordinate programming resources and form partnerships for the benefit of children and their caregivers. Youth services staff participates in outreach events throughout the year to support community-wide engagement and publicize library services.

Programs are either planned and administered by trained library staff or co-sponsored with an outside organization or individual. To provide an optimal learning experience, some programs may require registration to attend and will be noted as such. Programs will run as scheduled except in extreme circumstances, and participants are encouraged to arrive on time for the best experience. All programs are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure quality and relevance.

Approved 9/19/2000
Reapproved 03/07/2017
Reapproved 01/03/2023
Updated and Approved 10/01/2024