

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Board of Trustees

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM POLICY

MISSION

The Weber County Library provides programs for children and their caregivers to promote the joy of reading, stimulate creativity, and encourage independent learning. The primary intent of Children's Services programming is to serve preschoolers and their caregivers, since the Library is one of the few public institutions offering free access to resources that enable preschoolers to develop as unique, inquiring individuals.

Purpose:

- 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 are not ubiquitous, providing exposure to new concepts and information

Educational/Literacy Based Programs:

Programs provide a springboard for the showcasing of books, audiovisual materials, educational toys, and online resources. These programs may include some or all of the following: preschool and infant/toddler Discovery Times, special-needs programming, after-school programs, summer reading programs, bilingual story times, film screenings, and special one-time or sequenced programs.

Caregivers are an integral part of their children's learning experiences. Since the focus of Library programs is on learning, the caregiver/child ratio for preschoolers should be no more than four children to one adult, toddlers no more than three to one, and babies (for lap-time programs) no more than two to one. Ratios may be modified at times, depending on such factors as the type or purpose of program and ages of children participating.

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, such as the Spanish-speaking and lower socio-economic populations. Every effort is made to reach out to those children living in poverty to encourage them and the significant adults in their lives to utilize 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. Children's Services staff participates in outreach events throughout the year to support community-wide engagement and publicize Library services.

Programs are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure quality and relevance.

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