

# **The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville**

## **Report to Library Board**



**To:** Chair and Members of the Board  
**From:** Darla Fraser, Chief Executive Officer  
**Date:** April 24, 2024  
**Report #:** 24-05  
**Subject:** Policy Review - Children and Youth Services

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### **Recommendation**

**That Report 24-05, Policy Review – Children and Youth Services be received;**

**And that the Board approve the Children and Youth Services Policy, as presented in Appendix A.**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide a final review of the Children and Youth Services Policy, which was initially introduced during our February 28, 2024, meeting. As directed by the Board, we have made important additions to address concerns related to the safety of staff and parental obligations in cases where a child exhibits violent, disruptive, and aggressive dysregulated behaviours.

### **Background**

The Children and Youth Services Policy embodies our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all children and youth who participate in our programs. It aligns with the Ontario Library Association's statements on Children and Teen's Rights in the Public Library, as well as the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Children's Charter of Rights.

### **Key Additions**

#### **Protection of Staff During Programming**

We have included specific language to safeguard our staff members during program delivery. This provision ensures that staff can effectively manage situations involving children with dysregulated disruptive behaviours.

While our staff are well-trained in program delivery, these directives from the policy will be considered a last resort. Our primary goal remains to accommodate everyone and create a positive experience for all participants.

Added to the policy:

Library staff prioritize safety, well-being and respect for all patrons. All persons visiting the library, including children and youth, are expected to abide by the Rules of Conduct and Rzone Policy.

In accordance with the Children in the Library Policy, parents or caregivers are responsible for the behaviour of any child while in the library, including in a program setting. Staff will assist with empathy and aim to work with parents but are not accountable for managing dysregulated or disruptive behaviour.

### **Parental Responsibilities**

The revised policy outlines clear responsibilities for parents. In cases where a child's behaviour poses a risk to themselves or others, parents are expected to collaborate with us to find appropriate solutions.

We recognize that some children may require additional support, and we are committed to working closely with parents to address their child's needs.

Added to the policy:

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of children and youth left unattended.

Our Children and Youth Services Policy reflects our dedication to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment. By implementing these additions, we aim to strike a balance between accommodating all participants and ensuring the well-being of our staff.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact because of this policy.

### **Strategic Alignment**

Strategic Direction: Connect

Objective D: Offer collections, programs and services that are responsive to community needs and interests.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by,

Darla Fraser,  
Chief Executive Officer

**Attachment(s):** 1. Appendix A - Children and Youth Services Policy