

Approved by Board Action, 04/11/19

## Shorewood-Troy Public Library Policy

### Age-Appropriate Programming

The Shorewood Troy Public Library offers programs for all ages at various times. Currently, there are three-week sessions for story times and similar programs every month. This excludes the period during the Summer Reading Program which follows a different programming schedule. Throughout the month, we try to offer at least one program for families who are not available during the daytime hours. Seasonal and other special programs may be offered through the year as well. For the purpose of staff planning, certain programs is not offered in the month before or after the Summer Reading Program or during the weeks prior to Christmas/New Years.

While some programs are open to all ages, most programs have an age limit. Age limits are set for a number of reasons including

- maturity of content,
- presentation mode,
- performer stipulation,
- room capacity as set by fire code, and/or
- an environment appropriate for older children.

The library staff carefully weighs these factors along with the objective of allowing as many attendees as possible to enjoy events. Without age limits, many types of programs would not be able to be offered at all.

In addition to providing reasonable age limits, we also ask that each patron respect the other program attendees. If you or anyone in your party is displaying disruptive behavior at a program that has been deemed age-appropriate for them, you/they may step out of the room voluntarily or be asked to be removed from the program.

Staff will communicate the age limits in the library, in library-sanctioned press releases, in library publications, at the program, and on the library web site.

We request respect for the following age-appropriate programming guidelines:

Ages 5 & under: Parent participation is expected. Older and younger siblings may be allowed at the discretion of the program presenter.

Ages 6-12: Younger siblings are **not** allowed. Parents may also be asked to remain outside the meeting room during programs to encourage the children to interact more freely with each other.

Ages 13-17: Children and adults **not** within this age group are **not** allowed. Parents will be asked to remain outside the meeting room during programs to encourage young adults to interact more freely with each other.

Ages 18+: Children and young adults are **not** allowed. These programs are planned specifically for adults to interact without the presence of those under the age of 18.

All-ages: If the room has reached maximum capacity at a larger, all-ages program, staff may ask that parents of older children give their spot to children who would be otherwise turned away.

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We recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances. However, as noted above, there are a variety of reasons for the age limits. Making a different decision about age limits can be a complicated and often last minute decision. Parents are discouraged from expecting an exception and should understand that maturity of an individual is not a reasonable qualification. In the interest of fairness to all, age limits are enforced. Further questions can be referred to the Director.