

CUS-4

CHILDREN'S AND TEEN SPACES

Policy Statement:

The Manhattan Public Library is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for users of all ages. In support of this commitment, the library maintains designated spaces for children and teens where they can explore their interests in the company of their peers.

Definitions:

Caregiver/guardian

A caregiver/guardian is any individual 14 years of age or older who has the authority and ability to care for a child from the child's parent or legal guardian.

Library Staff Responsibility

The Library does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents) and Library staff do not have the authority to take responsibility for your child. Caregivers, as defined above, are responsible for the children in their care. Library staff are available to assist and support youth with their use of Library resources.

Regulations

- 1) The Children's Room is designated for children (ages birth to 12th grade) and their caregivers.
- 2) Patrons of all ages may browse collections in the Children's Room and in the Young Adult Area, but lingering adult patrons without children will be asked by Library staff to relocate to use facilities, seating, services, and/or equipment in the Adult collections.
- 3) The Teen Zone is designated for individuals in grades 6th through 12th. Time in the Teen Zone is a privilege, not a right. Library policies will be enforced, including library suspension, if the behavior continues.
- 4) The tables, seating, and other furniture in the Young Adult Collection are reserved for teen use only. Adult patrons will be asked to relocate to the adult seating areas.
- 5) Furniture in the Young Adult Collection is not to be moved to ensure walkways and materials remain accessible. If an individual or a group needs a room where they can

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readjust the furniture; a study room, the auditorium, or the Groesbeck Room may be reserved.

- 6) Guardians may come into the Teen Zone to briefly speak to or pick up their teen(s) but will not be able to stay. They may use the seating next to the Reference Collection if they need to stay nearby.
- 7) Children and teens' support service providers (e.g., tutors, caseworkers, etc.) are welcome to use all public spaces except the Teen Zone due to limited space.