

CHILDREN'S MATERIALS SELECTION POLICY

It is the desire of the Apache Junction Public Library to provide children in the infancy through early teen years a collection that can satisfy their informational, cultural and recreational reading needs. Primary emphasis is placed on the selection of a wide variety of print materials to help stimulate the child's intellectual, emotional and creative abilities and to help satisfy the child's natural curiosity about the world and his or her relationship to it. The library will add non-print materials for children as the budget allows.

I. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION

The responsibility for selection lies with the professional staff of the library. Other staff members, as well as members of the general public, may make recommendations for consideration. The ultimate responsibility for materials selection rests with the Director of the Library who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Library Board of Trustees.

II. SELECTION RESPONSIBILITY CRITERIA

Selection decisions may be based upon the following criteria:

1. literary and artistic worth
2. suitability of content and vocabulary to the age of the readers
3. contribution of the material to the balance of the total collection
4. emphasis on positive attitudes
5. provision of enjoyment thereby fostering an interest in reading
6. positive reviews in recognized reviewing journals or inclusion in authoritative lists of best books for children

The children's collection includes print and non-print materials to meet the general demands of the majority of children as well as books with special qualities which make them valuable to children with special needs, talents, problems or interests.

School curriculum demands may be considered in selection; however, it is not the intention of the public library to replicate or attempt to substitute for the school library.

Books in a series will be judged individually for merit and will be added only as they fill particular need.

Books on human development and sexuality are carefully selected based, in part, upon their simplicity and dignity of presentation.

Books which are recognized as children's classics and of considerable literary merit are included in the collection even though they may contain a word or phrase that is unacceptable to some members of the community.

Current books which are well-written and which authentically and meaningfully portray a period, incident, or way of life may be purchased despite the occasional use of an unacceptable term, provided the total impact of the book meets the standards set forth in this policy.

The responsibility for the reading of children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Materials in the adult collection will not be restricted by the possibility that children may obtain materials their parents consider inappropriate.

Locations and designations of materials for children can be found in the Library Procedures Manual.

It is the intention of the library to stimulate children's interest in reading through programs such as the summer reading program and story hours. The library staff cooperates with local schools, area nursery schools, day care centers and the Parks and Recreation Department of the City to further the objective of fostering a love of books and reading among children.