



Policy Title:	Children's Rights in the Public Library
Policy Type:	Public Service
Policy #:	PS 021-03
Policy Authority:	Board
Effective Date:	March 2016

Purpose

With this statement, the Clarington Public Library Board recognizes that the needs of children are important in their own right: that their intellectual growth, their cultural appreciation and recreational activities should be fostered through quality library service, delivered with consideration and respect.

The library will use the principles contained in the 'Statement on Children's Rights in the Public Library' to guide it in service planning.

Policy

The Clarington Public Library Board endorses the policy statement of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) concerning "Children's Rights in the Public Library" dated 1998.

OLA Policy Statement

Children in Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom.
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.