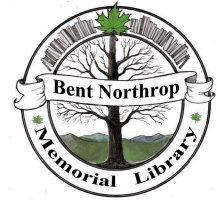


# Bent Northrop Memorial Library

## Child Policy



**Purpose:** To provide a safe and respectful environment for all patrons.

The Bent Northrop Memorial Library (BNML) is committed to serving the information and recreation needs of young people. The Library strives to provide a welcoming environment and provides targeted resources and programs to meet the needs of young people.

Public libraries are agencies that provide the public (including young people) with access to information and recreational materials through a variety of services and resources. Libraries also support young people through programs that foster an appreciation of literature and promote the development of information literacy skills.

The BNML's services to young people include:

- Fiction and nonfiction study and recreational books and materials
- Internet access and training
- Assistance from staff in accessing collections and information
- Story time and playgroup
- Programs and activities
- Summer reading programs
- Activity space for community organizations
- Social gathering space
- Quiet space

### Parent/Caregiver Responsibility Statement

The role of library staff is to guide and assist young people in finding and accessing resources appropriate to particular interests and inquiries. Parents/caregivers are responsible for setting boundaries or restrictions for their child's behavior.

Library collections are available to all library users without restriction. It is not the responsibility of BNML or its staff to exercise a supervisory or restrictive role in determining which library resources young people may use or access. The Library encourages parents/caregivers to set their own family rules in consultation with their child. It is the responsibility of parents/caregivers to monitor young people's selection and use of library resources. **The Library exercises no limitation on access. The Library has no censorship role in its choice of the library resources that form the collection.**

Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child's use of the Internet, in line with the Library's Internet policy. The Library does not monitor, control or filter the content of materials offered through the Internet.

### **Unattended Children Policy**

**Parents/caregivers should not view the library as an alternative to daycare. Staff will not be placed in the position of supervising young people.** For the safety and protection of all patrons, BNML has developed the following guidelines:

- All children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult or a responsible caregiver.
- Young people, aged 8 and up, are welcome to use the library independently, as long as their behavior is in accordance with the Patron Behavior Policy.
- Parents/caregivers need to know that, regardless of their absence/presence, they are legally responsible for their children's behavior in the library.
- Young people must be picked up prior to closing time. If young people remain at closing time, they will be asked to wait outside.
- Parents/caregivers should be advised that if young people misbehave, they will be asked to leave the Library in accordance with the Patron Behavior Policy.

For the purposes of this policy, the definition of **young people** and **child** includes children and young adults from birth up to age 18.

A child is **unattended** when out of sight of a parent or caregiver

Adopted July 2011

Revised and Approved July 2017

Reviewed and Approved August 2018

Revised and Approved August 2019

Revised and Approved January 2024

BNML Trustees