



CREATING THE BEST LIBRARY EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR FAMILY

A Guide for Parents & Caregivers

Rights & Responsibilities

As a parent or caregiver, you are your child's first and best teacher. You should feel empowered to set parameters that are right for your family. It is your role to discuss with your child what is and is not appropriate for them to read, view, and listen to.

As a public library, it is our responsibility to include materials in our collection that meet the needs of everyone in our community. We strive to have something for everyone! With that in mind, every family is different. What is just right for some community members and some families may not be appropriate for others.

Personalized Recommendations

Our trained and experienced library staff can work with you to find the best materials for your child or teen. We can talk with you about your family's reading, viewing and listening values while also determining subject matter you would like to avoid. This will help us identify items in our collection that specifically meet your family's needs, interests, and standards.

Navigating the Library Collection

Our collection is organized by age group:

The children's area contains materials for children between the ages of birth through 12 and includes books for parents to use. These are marked "J" for juvenile.

The teen space contains materials for middle school and high school age youth between the ages of 13 to 18, marked "Teen."

The main library area has materials for adults.

Difference between children & teen materials:

Although material in the teen space is considered by librarians and the publishing industry as generally appropriate for teens between the ages of 13 and 18, this does not necessarily mean that the reading level is higher or more advanced than juvenile books in the children's department. In fact, it is possible that the reading level could be higher for some books in the fiction collection than those in the teen collection.

What is a guarantee however, is that the content of books in the teen space, for ages 13 to 18, is more mature than what you'd find for 11 and 12 year olds in the juvenile fiction collection in the children's department. Books for older teens (15 to 18 years old) may contain content of a sexual nature. You would be less likely to find explicit language and definitely less likely to find sexual content in the juvenile fiction collection.

Library staff can assist you in locating teen materials more suitable for your child.

Call or stop by an Ada Community Library branch to talk with our staff!

Every member of your family is welcome to have a library card of their own! As a parent/guardian, you can select how you want to set up and monitor your child's account: Log into your child's account at www.adalib.org using their library card number and the pin you set up when you opened the account.

Using the Ida App, associate your account to your child's and enable email notifications for their account. You will still need to log into your child's account separately to monitor it.

You can also use the app to see what is checked-out on every card.

Parents/guardians are financially responsible for any lost item charges.