



Policy Name:	Children's Policy	Version Number:	1.0
Date of Production:	14 th December 2006	Produced by:	Lynne Makin
Approved by:	CEO Lynne Makin	Date Approved:	14 th December 2006
Contact:	CEO	Date to be reviewed:	1 st November 2010

Welcome statement

Upper Murray Regional Library 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.

Service statement

The Upper Murray Regional Library's services to young people include:

- fiction, non fiction and recreational books;
- magazines;
- CDs;
- videos;
- Internet/PC access;
- assistance from specialist and general staff in accessing collections and information;
- homework help;
- DVDs;
- Internet training
- pre-school storytime; and
- space for activities or study.

Access to resources

Library collections are available to all library users without restriction. It is not the responsibility of the Upper Murray Regional Library 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/carers to set their own family rules in consultation with their child. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to monitor young people's selection and use of library resources.

Unattended children

Unsupervised children can be at risk in any public place, including public libraries. Library staff do not supervise children in the Library, so there is a risk that unattended children may leave the library at any time, hurt themselves, or be approached by strangers. Parents or carers retain ultimate responsibility for the safety of children in their care. They are responsible for their child's safety whilst in the library, including attendance at organised children's Library activities. Libraries are busy public places, open to all, and staff cannot judge which members of the public present a possible danger to children. In addition, libraries do not have the facilities to attend to children who are sick, injured, thirsty or hungry.

Young children left alone in a library can become distressed, bored or disruptive. Library users, including young people, who disturb other library users may be removed from the library under the *Library Act 1939*.

|

Any child left unattended in a public library may be classed as a child or young person at risk of harm under *the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, s23, and subsequently may be reported as such to the Department of Community Services under s24 or s27 of the Act

Parents who leave a child unattended in a public library are exposing their child to potential harm, and may themselves be committing an offence under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, s228.

Child Protection

Upper Murray Regional Library employees whose positions involve working with Children have the necessary check that is required under the Working with Children Act 2005, for the employee's to carry out their duties.

Variations

UMRL reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy