

## **FAMILY PLACE LIBRARY CHILDREN'S AREA POLICY**

Beaumont Library District's Children's Area is intended for use by children who are 0 to 12 years old and their parent(s) or caregiver(s). Other individuals are welcome to visit the Children's Area briefly to retrieve books and other library materials or to request assistance from staff working in that space. The Children's Area represents the Library's effort to support early literacy and child development, as stated in the Plan of Service and as a Family Place Library. For this reason, use of the space, including the furniture will be held exclusively for children.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Children's Area is a dedicated area that provides access to materials, resources and professional guidance to meet the literacy and developmental needs of children.

### **Purpose:**

- The library offers early literacy and family literacy programs to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.
- Early literacy skills are developed through play. The play center in the Children's Area is designed to encourage parent/child interaction, stimulate curiosity, and promote conversation. The Beaumont Library strives to create a safe and inviting environment for children and families.
- In keeping with the above Mission Statement, adults can be asked by library staff to use the Adult section of the library.

### **Details:**

- This policy is in place to provide a safe and welcoming environment for children.
- The library recognizes that some families homeschool their children. Homeschooled patrons are encouraged to take advantage of the Children's Area for playing, reading and utilizing the collection.
- While patrons of all ages are welcome to browse and check out materials from the Children's collection, the use of furniture within this area is exclusively for the use of children who are 0 to 12 years old.
- Parents or caregivers should use the Children's Area with their children. Children should not be left unattended.
- Adults over the age of 18 not accompanying a child may be asked to leave the Children's Area at any time.

Adopted by Board of Trustees – 9/30/21  
Reviewed – 2/29/24