

Play Room Policy

Mohall Public Library

Children from birth through age 6 and their parents or caregivers are invited to explore this fun space filled with a mix of play experiences. Located just past the Mohall Plaza lobby toward the south-end of the building, Mohall Public Library's playroom is designed for our youngest library users and focuses on building early literacy skills through one of the most important ways children learn – PLAY!

- **Those who wish to use the playroom must sign a one-time initial release form with the librarian which confirms this policy has been read by an adult caregiver.** This ensures users know our playroom policy completely and are able to ask questions regarding the policy before use.
- **Playroom users must sign in and out using the clipboard on the playroom door.** This is to help library staff monitor the playroom, gather data, and to help determine a course of action if incidents arise.
- **Absolutely no unattended children allowed.**
- **Playroom users include children from birth to age 6 with their adult caregivers only.** Activities found in the playroom focus on early development and literacy skills best suited to the developmental needs of young children. While older children are welcome in the children's area in the library, we want to keep our playroom safe and welcoming for young children. The librarian can make exceptions only if the child in question is an older sibling who will be with their parent, but this is at the librarian's discretion - the Main Library is open to children of all ages and is a good alternative if attending the library with older siblings.
- **Adults are expected to stay with their children, guide them in play, and take responsibility for their behavior.** This space has been designed so that children will get the maximum benefit by interacting with their parents or other adult caregivers. Library staff are not responsible for the behavior of children in the playroom and will not be physically supervising the playroom. Caregivers should also refrain from asking library staff to watch their children. Library staff do not act as guardians or caretakers for youth patrons, and cannot assume responsibility for the safety of children while in the library or playroom.
- **Activities included in the playroom are "indoor" activities** such as writing, drawing, manipulating toys, and building with blocks. These are important for all children to learn and practice.
- **Running, jumping, shouting, rough play, and throwing objects are "outdoor" activities and do not belong in the playroom.**
- **No food or drink (other than water) allowed in the playroom.**
- Groups of 5 or more need to check with Library staff before using the playroom.
- The room cannot be reserved for private use.
- Room capacity is limited to 10 individuals.
- With limited capacity, we ask playroom users to limit their time to a maximum of one hour in the playroom.

- Use the Family Bathroom located in the Mohall Plaza lobby to change diapers. This bathroom has a changing table and garbage to dispose of diapers.
- There is a restroom in the playroom for emergencies or handwashing.

Patrons not following the expectations laid out in this policy will be given a warning. If the behaviors still persist, the patron(s) will be asked to leave. The patron(s) will be allowed back in the playroom after reviewing the policy again and signing a probationary release form similar to the initial release form. If another warning is issued and the patron is asked to leave, they will no longer be allowed back into the playroom. Patrons will also be held liable for any property damage or injuries.

Reviewed and Adopted by MPL Board January _____