

## **ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDREN'S AREA, STORYTIME PLAYSPACE, AND TEEN ROOM**

The Library has a special responsibility in serving the needs of youth in the community. As part of this idea, the Library has set aside spaces specifically intended for children and teens. The Children's Area, Storytime Playspace, and Teen Room are therefore restricted to children, teens ages 12 through 18, and the responsible caregivers that accompany them.

People using these spaces are expected to keep these areas neat and tidy and to adhere to the rules stated in the Patron Responsibilities and Conduct section of the Ellsworth Public Library Policy Manual. Appropriate behavior is expected and warnings will be given for disruptive behavior. Children whose behavior continues to be disruptive will be asked to leave after arrangements are made with parents/guardians.

### **UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

Children ages 9 and older may be in the Library unattended for a period of time not to exceed 4 hours, provided that their behavior is not disruptive to other customers or staff members.

Children under the age of 9 must be supervised by a responsible caregiver, age 12 or older, at all times while they are in the Library.

When children attend library programs where adult supervision is not required, a parent or caregiver is expected to pick up their children as soon as the program ends.

### **UNACCOMPANIED ADULTS**

Adults who are not accompanied by youth may only use the youth services or young adult areas when it is necessary to use the resources specific to those areas. Adults using the youth services area, Storytime Playspace, or Teen Room for any other purpose will be asked to move to another area of the Library.

### **STORYTIME PLAYSPACE**

The Storytime Playspace is intended for use by young children and their guardians or caregivers. Older siblings are welcome in the Storytime Playspace when accompanying a younger sibling. The Storytime Playspace represents the Library's effort to provide a literacy-rich environment to boost early brain and vocabulary development through play and early literacy programming.

### **TEEN ROOM**

The Teen Room is intended for use by patrons ages 12-18. Other individuals are welcome to visit the Teen Room briefly to retrieve books and other library materials or to request assistance from staff working in that space. Parents, guardians, and younger siblings are welcome in the Teen Room when accompanied by their teen. The Teen Room represents the Library's effort to ensure that teens have a place that is safe, relaxing, and responsive to their library needs and interests. The Teen Room is not an appropriate space for tutoring.

**Adopted November 29, 2022**