

Teen Space Policy

This policy is for application to those libraries within the City of Buffalo (Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries).

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) ensures that teens age 13-18 have a place that is safe, relaxing, and responsive to their library needs and interests. The B&ECPL is committed to supporting the social nature and unique characteristics of this age group by designating separate spaces designed for their library needs.

II. GUIDELINES

A. Users

All activities and programs in teen spaces are designed solely for ages 13-18. Guardians are allowed in teen spaces if accompanied by a teen. Other adults wishing to browse and checkout items shall be allowed 15 minutes to do so, but the space and equipment is reserved exclusively for teen use.

B. Materials

Materials in the teen collection are intended for teens ages 13-18. The B&ECPL strives to reach this entire age group, and what is appropriate for an 18-year-old may not be for a 13-year-old. Guardians are encouraged to talk to their teens about what they are reading.

C. Behavior Expectations

Teens using teen spaces must adhere to all B&ECPL policies including the *Rules of Conduct*.

Examples of behavior expectations in teen spaces:

1. **Be respectful:** respect one another and one another's belongings.
2. **Keep your hands to yourself:** no rough-housing, pushing, shoving, or excessive public displays of affection.
3. **Be kind:** no profane, disrespectful, or unsafe language.
4. **Keep the volume down:** talk at a conversational level (the same applies when playing audio or talking on a cell phone).

5. **Take pride in the space:** clean up the space after use, and use furniture for its intended purpose (no lying on furniture, sitting on tables, or standing on chairs).
6. **Keep an eye on belongings:** do not leave bags, laptops, cell phones, etc. unattended.

Adopted April 18, 2024 per Res. 2024-10.