

Abington Public Library Children's Collection Development Policy

The Abington Public Library's objective in selecting and organizing materials for children is to make available a collection that meets the recreational, informational, and cultural needs of children from infancy through fifth grade, and adults working with children.

The Abington Public Library declared the following service priorities in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan:

- Create Young Readers: Early Literacy
- Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure
- Visit a Comfortable Space: Physical and Virtual Space
- Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
- Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services

This policy is aligned with the Abington Public Library General Collection Development Policy.

General Principles

The Children's Librarian is responsible for the selection of children's materials. The Children's Librarian will work in conjunction with the staff members responsible for selecting adult materials to avoid purchasing duplicate materials.

Materials selection will be made after reading two reviews from reputable professional journals such as School Library Journal, Voice of Youth Advocates, Horn Book Magazine, and Kirkus Reviews when possible.

Materials selection for the Reference collection and the nonfiction collection will be evaluated on accuracy, scope, format, and currency. Each subject area should be covered with as great a depth as availability allows. Nonfiction series materials will be evaluated as individual items.

Materials selection for the fiction collection will be evaluated on currency and format. Materials selection will include a range of genres, interests, and reading abilities. Series fiction materials will be evaluated and included in the collection after consideration regarding funding and availability elsewhere in the library community.

Children's materials selection will consider the suitability of the subject matter and appropriateness of vocabulary used to the intended audience.

Materials selection for adult use will be evaluated on accuracy, scope, format, and currency. Subjects will include pregnancy, parenting, educational and societal materials relating to families. Materials at different reading levels will be considered.

Titles are replaced when materials are lost or in poor condition only when the title is needed because of quality, demand, or content. Duplicate copies of materials are purchased when

demand requires. However, the Abington Public Library cannot purchase multiple copies to satisfy all the needs of the school curriculum.

Requests for titles from patrons or staff will be given consideration. The Children's Librarian will determine if requested titles meet selection criteria.

Withdrawing Materials

Materials are withdrawn regularly to ensure that all materials meet general principles of collection development. Materials may be removed from the collection after evaluation because of unnecessary duplication, poor condition, biased or obsolete content, or disuse. Considerations for space may also be made.