

CREATING THE
Best Library
Experience
FOR YOUR FAMILY

A Guide for **Parents** and **Caregivers**



Welcome to the **Community Library Network!**

We want every child to enjoy a safe and fun time in our libraries. You'll find terrific children's collections, programs, and expert staff to help inspire your child's love of reading and learning. We are here to help you find content that fits with your family's interests and values.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

As a parent or caregiver, the responsibility for use of library materials by your child rests ultimately with you. You should feel empowered to set parameters that are right for your family, and we encourage you to discuss with your child what is and is not appropriate for them to read, view, and listen to.

As a public library, it is our responsibility to include materials in our collection that meet the needs of all of the different people in our community. We strive to have something for everyone. With that in mind, every family is unique. What is right for some community members and some families may not be appropriate for others.

This is why we want to empower you to set those boundaries for your family. There are a number of ways we can help you do that, and they are outlined in this guide.

PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS

Our trained and experienced library staff are here to help you navigate the library's collection so that you may find something that is just right for your child or teen. We can talk with you about your family's reading, viewing, and listening interests. This is an opportunity for you to tell us about any subject matter you would like to avoid. This will help us identify items in the collection that specifically meet your family's needs, interests, and standards.

THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO DO THIS:

- You can **visit** a library location to speak with a staff person one on one.
- You can **contact** us by phone (208-773-1506), or by email (contact@communitylibrary.net)
- Complete our **Super Librarian Reading Rescue** and **Book Match** forms for personalized recommendations.

<https://communitylibrary.net/forms/super-librarian-reading-rescue/>

<https://communitylibrary.net/forms/book-match-teens-and-adults/>

BROWSING & NAVIGATING THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Our collection is organized by age group to give our patrons an idea of where they can browse for materials that would be appropriate for them.

In general:

The **children's department** contains juvenile materials for children between the ages of birth through 12.

Books in the **easy fiction collection** are designed to be shared by a caregiver to children birth-5 years. Topics ranges from farm animals and the alphabet to princesses and construction vehicles.

The **teen space** contains young adult materials for middle school and high school age youth between the ages of 12 to 18.

The **main library area** has materials for adults.

The difference between books for older kids and teens:

Although material in the teen space is considered by librarians and the publishing industry as generally appropriate for teens between the ages of 12 and 18, this does not necessarily mean that the reading level is higher or more advanced than juvenile books in the children's department. In fact, it is possible that the reading level could be higher for some books in the juvenile fiction collection than those in the young adult collection in the teen space.

What is a guarantee however, is that the content of young adult books in the teen space, for ages 12 to 18, is more mature than what you'd find in the juvenile fiction collection in the children's department.

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MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S LIBRARY ACCOUNT

Every member of your family is welcome to have a library card of their own. If you decide to get your child their own library card, you can select how you want to set up and monitor your child's account:

- You can log in to your child's account at www.communitylibrary.net using their library card number and the pin you set up when you opened the account. This will let you see everything that is checked out on the account.
- You can add your email address to your child's account. You will receive notifications when items on the account have been placed on hold or renewed. You will also receive notifications when items are overdue or deemed lost.
- You can link your child's account to your own library card account. This allows you to pick up items on hold under your child's account. However, you will still need to log into your child's account separately to see items they have checked out.
- You can choose not to monitor your child's library account. However, a parent or guardian will still need to be listed on the account. That person is financially responsible for charges on the account.

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Additionally, books for older teens (15 to 18 years old) may contain content of a more mature nature, including explicit language and sexual content. You would be less likely to find these topics in the juvenile fiction collection.

There are some wonderful, gentle, teen reads with protagonists aged 14 to 18 years old that can be found in the teen space. Library staff aim to make these gentle teen reads easily accessible by curating book lists and putting up displays on a variety of themes.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Stop by a Community Library Network library to talk with our staff!

Or reach out at **208-773-1506** or **contact@communitylibrary.net**.

Find Your Local Library!

Athol

30399 Third Street,
Athol, ID 83801

Bookmobile

For schedule, visit:
**[communitylibrary.net/
outreach/](http://communitylibrary.net/outreach/)**

Harrison

111 S Coeur d'Alene Ave,
Harrison, ID 83833

Hayden

8385 N Government Way,
Hayden, ID 83835

Pinehurst

107 Main St,
Pinehurst, ID 83850

Post Falls

821 N Spokane St,
Post Falls, ID 83854

Rathdrum

16320 Hwy 41,
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Spirit Lake

32575 N 5th Ave,
Spirit Lake, ID 83869