

Children's Room Internet Access and Safety Policy

The Youth Services Department provides internet access to youth through age 17. An age-appropriate home-page is presented on all digital devices the library offers.

The Internet is an ever-changing source of information and not all sites are accurate or current. Many sites are inappropriate for children and therefore parents and caregivers are encouraged to come to the library and use the Internet with their children. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. Ultimate responsibility for how children use the Internet is a matter for parents and their children to decide. Just as parents are encouraged to discuss appropriate use of other library materials, the library encourages parents to discuss with their children the appropriate use of electronic resources available through the Internet, including the use of social media and other forms of direct electronic communications.

In fulfilling its mission to provide up-to-date and accurate information, the Eastham Public Library seeks to provide equal access to information for persons of all ages. With regard to the Internet, the library does not selectively choose which electronic resources to make available. The Eastham Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content.

Use of the library's computers in ways that violates local, state or federal law or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services or equipment are prohibited. Use of the Internet in violation of Massachusetts General Law 272, Section 28, the Harmful to Minors Statute is prohibited. Disclosing, using or disseminating personal identity information about minors is prohibited. The Library reserves the right to require users to refrain from displaying computer images which are inappropriate for public viewing.

The library has policies in place to help children and parents use the library in a safe way. The library does not allow adults to use the Youth Services computers unless they are with their child. The library requires that all children under the age of 10 be accompanied by an adult while in the library. In addition, library staff pay close attention to activity in the building, and intervene, when necessary, to maintain a safe environment.

The library does not routinely monitor public computers, but reserves the right to do so when a violation of this policy or illegal activity is suspected. Staff is authorized to take immediate action to protect the security of computers and the network.