

## **Programming Policy**

### **Adult**

As part of its mission to provide for the educational, informational, and recreational needs of our community, the Upper St Clair Township Library offers a wide array of programs for adult members of our community. Programs may be stand-alone events that occur once; miniseries with several meetings; or recurring groups that meet on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly schedule.

The library offers programs based on numerous factors, including the popularity of similar programs in the past; current events and trends; and library patrons' expressed interest. Presenters are welcome to inquire about offering a program at the library. All such proposals are assessed based on factors including: the program's value and appeal to patrons; the presenter's credentials; and the availability of similar programs elsewhere in the Township. The library does not allow commercial solicitation or promotion of private businesses during programs. Products may not be sold, with the exception of authors selling their books.

All adults are welcome to attend the library's adult programs. Most programs are free to attend; some programs may entail a small charge or requested donation for the cost of materials.

Patrons are asked to register to attend programs through the library's online calendar or by calling the library. In most cases, the library is able to accommodate patrons who drop into a program without registering. However, the library caps attendance of certain programs due to space constraints. In these cases, the library makes every effort to confirm the attendance of registered patrons the day before the program, and to contact patrons on the program's wait list if any openings materialize.

Many adult programs offer the opportunity for attendees to engage with the presenter and one another through discussion or question and answer sessions. Attendees are expected to express themselves in a respectful and constructive manner at all times. Question and answer sessions are not debates, but opportunities for program attendees to learn from the expertise of featured speakers. The library is a place for everyone and does not tolerate language or behavior that may make individuals or groups feel unwelcome or unsafe. Patrons who repeatedly violate these behavioral standards will be asked to refrain from participating in library programs temporarily or indefinitely.

### **Children's and Teen**

#### **Importance of Play for all Children**

The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, has recognized the importance of play and family involvement in a child's

learning and development. Upper St. Clair Library's services for children has been guided by the Association's research and best practice recommendations.

There are opportunities for unstructured play as well as more formal story-times and classes available at Upper St. Clair Library. The library provides an environment filled with materials and resources specifically selected to support literacy and family engagement in the learning process.

Play with other children is critical for the development of social skills. Children learn about their world through play. They develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain self-confidence to fully engage in new experiences. These essential pre-literacy skills will help them get ready to read and on the right path to school readiness and student success.

The Play-to-Learn space for young children is equipped with many materials focused on pre-literacy skills. The activities in the Explore-to-Learn space for school-aged children focus on STEM skills related to science, technology, engineering and math. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to visit anytime and take advantage of these learning opportunities.

### **Programming for Preschoolers**

The classes for young children are designed to be educational and are developmentally appropriate. The Pennsylvania Standards for Early Childhood provide a framework which focuses on early learning and literacy skills and introduces STEM (science, technology engineering and math) concepts. Through participation in these classes, caregivers are involved with their child's learning and everyone has an enjoyable time.

The multi-week sessions are planned to optimize learning with predictable routines that facilitate learning. Repetition strengthens the growth of neural connections in the brain and is a necessary building block of learning. Each class builds on the skill set introduced in the class before it. Class sizes are limited to ensure quality learning experiences for everyone.

### **Programming for School Age Children**

The programs and classes for school age children are designed to enhance and enrich their school curriculum or to introduce new topics not traditionally covered in the typical school day. Literacy and STEM concepts are emphasized. Classes are also created to further the five literacies identified by the Pennsylvania Library Association PA Forward program which include Basic Literacy, Informational Literacy, Civic and Social Literacy, Health Literacy and Financial Literacy.

### **Programming for Teens**

Programs for children in grades 6 and above are also designed to enrich the school curriculum. In addition, life skills programs add to a teen's knowledge of the world and support their transition into a post-secondary school environment. Again, the PA Forward Literacies, in particular the Information and Financial Literacies are emphasized.

There is a volunteer program open to teens which encourages community engagement, employability skills and first-hand knowledge of how a library works.

### **Registration for Programs & Special Events**

Due to space limitations as well as a need to limit attendance to ensure a quality experience, registration is required for some classes, programs and special events. Every effort is made to add additional sessions to meet demand. Please check the Children's program calendar for more specific information on each program, class or event. All services and programs are nondiscriminatory and inclusive.

#### References:

American Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/>

Pennsylvania Early Learning Initiative. <http://www.pakeys.org/pa-early-learning-initiatives/early-learning-standards/>

Pennsylvania Library Association PA Forward Program. <http://www.paforward.org/>