

Fine Free FAQs: Children's and Teen Materials

April 24, 2025

Why are you going fine free for children's and teen material?

Two of our Strategic Directions are to Create Young Readers and reduce barriers for using library services. What better way to achieve both of these goals than to remove late fees from children's material? This initiative aims to support the strategies and goals of SAPL's [2023-2028 Strategic Plan](#), including Strategic Priority 1 - Creating Young Readers: Early Literacy. It also aligns with SAPL's Barrier Free Services Plan, specifically addressing financial barriers (fees and fines).

Why aren't you totally fine free, like many other libraries in Alberta?

This is our first step on our journey towards becoming a barrier free library. We are using a step by step approach to removing fines for all.

What happens if I lose or damage an item ? Do I still need to pay for it?

Yes, if you lose or damage an item from any of our collections, you will still need to pay the replacement cost for that item.

Will I still get overdue reminders?

Yes you will still get reminders 2 days before being overdue, 1 week after they are overdue and one when they are 3 weeks overdue. After 40 days the item will be considered lost and you will receive a billing notification.

Does this mean that I'm going to have to wait longer for a hold I have on a kid's book, because people won't bother returning them on time anymore?

Studies have shown that libraries who have eliminated late fees actually experience a decrease in late returns and shorter hold wait times.

If I use my adult membership to borrow children's books, will I get late fees on the children's book if I return it late?

No, fees are attached to the type of material and not the type of membership. If you borrow an adult book on a children's card, you will still get charged an overdue fee if you are late returning the book.

Does this mean that there won't be hardly any books on the shelf because no one is bringing their books back on time?

No, that won't be an issue. Studies have shown that libraries who have eliminated late fees actually experience a decrease in late returns.

I already have late fees on my account from prior to April 24 on some children's books. Will those be taken away?

Yes, any late fees from prior to April 24 will be removed; however, there may be some that we missed removing. If you notice you still have late fees for children's or teen material on your account, please contact the Library and we will remove them.