

Safety of Minors Policy

The Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections and programming offered by the Library. The Library attempts to provide a safe and secure environment for children who use the Library. The Library does not act in place of parents, we do not provide childcare services; young children are not safe when left unattended. The following children's policy has been adopted to ensure that children will be properly supervised in the Library:

1. The Library and its staff do not assume responsibility for any child left unattended in the Library.
2. Emergency contact information must always be provided.
3. Children 10 years of age or younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult or a teenager (16 years or older). In a special situation such as children's afterschool events and reading programs, a child 6 years of age or older may attend a program unaccompanied, emergency contact information must be provided. However, responsible parties must remain in the building while a child 5 years of age or younger is attending a program.
4. All Library visitors are subject to the "Patron Rules and Behavior Policy", page 8, concerning disruptive behavior. Parents are responsible for the behavior of minor children at all times, even if they are not in the Library with the child. Library staff does not serve *in loco parentis*, in place of parent. If a child's behavior is inappropriate for the Library, and they do not respond to appropriate guidance from Library staff, the parent will be contacted to remove the child from the Library. If the parent cannot be reached and the child's behavior is deemed dangerous or unduly disruptive, the police may be called.
5. Restriction of a child's access to any internet sites rests solely with the child's parent/legal guardian.
6. Parents or caregivers of unattended children must arrive at the library to pick up their children at least 30 minutes prior to closing time of the Library or at end of a program.
7. If a minor is in the library without a responsible adult at closing time, the Library Manager will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver. If the parent or caregiver cannot be located, the police will be contacted to pick up the child.
8. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the Library or provide any transportation. No individual staff person is to be left alone in the Library or on Library property with a child after closing.

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