

CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

Use by Children

Children are welcome and encouraged to use the Library at all times. The Library desires to make each visit an important one for the child. A “Child” means a minor under the age of 18.

Rules and Regulations Regarding Children

1. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the Library's policies. Parents, guardians or responsible caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing children, particularly the Internet Use Policy.
2. Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the behavior, safety, and supervision of their children regardless of age while in the Library or on Library property.
3. Library staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior. Children under the age of 12 must be attended by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. The parent, guardian or responsible caregiver (who must be at least 16 years old) shall remain in the Library at all times, within reach. If a child under the age of 12 is attending a Library- sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or responsible caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program. If a child under the age of 6 is attending a Library-sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or responsible caregiver is to accompany the child for the entire duration of the program.
4. Children of any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times.
5. Staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave the Library premises alone or with other persons. Further, staff will not be responsible for children 12 years or older who may be asked to leave the Library if the child is in violation of Library policy.
6. We request that all unattended children be picked up at least ten minutes before closing time. Parents, guardians and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.
7. Children 12 years or older must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the Library. It is a violation of Library policy to not pick up your unattended child immediately if the Library calls.

Contact of Parent or Guardian

Library staff may attempt to contact a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver when:

- The health or safety of an unattended child is in doubt.
- A child is frightened while alone at the Library.
- A child has been left unattended for an extended period of time, or multiple times.

- The unattended child has not been met by a parent, legal guardian, custodian or responsible caregiver at closing time. A child is considered unattended at closing time if the child is under the age of 12 or the child needs assistance procuring transportation.

Unattended Children at Closing

If a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver cannot be reached by closing time or fails to arrive within a reasonable time after being contacted, Library staff may contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation involving the unattended child. Library employees are not permitted to transport an unattended child or vulnerable adult under any circumstances. If the parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver can be reached by closing time, the staff member shall explain the Library's policy and provide a copy of this policy.