

Children in the Library



The purpose of the Library policy for children is to encourage children and families to use the Library and attend its programs while maintaining an environment that is welcoming and inviting for all Library users.

Young children are not safe when left unattended in the Library: the staff cannot know if young children are climbing the stairs to the mezzanine, finding their way to the basement, or leaving the building. In order to create an environment of safety, and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been created:

CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE SAME RULES AS STATED FOR ALL PATRONS WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

1. **Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children when in the Library.**
2. Parents and guardians may not leave children under the age of 11 at the Library by themselves. Children between the ages of 6 and 11 may be left in the Children's Room for a Library program, as long as a parent or responsible caretaker is easily available in another part of the Library.
3. Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times while on the Library premises.
4. If a problem arises with children of any age and we are unable to locate the parent(s) or if the Library is closing and the parent(s) cannot be located, the police will be called at the discretion of the staff.
5. Children age 11 and older may be left unattended to complete homework assignments or to read or check out books. Children left unattended should know how to reach a parent or guardian, and parents should be aware of the closing time of the Library.
6. Children may sign up to use the computers. These computers are not filtered, and certain content may be objectionable to parent(s). It is up to the parent(s) to educate their children on the use of the Internet if their child is to be left in the Library unsupervised. The Library assumes no responsibility for the content found on the Internet.
7. When older children are attending Library programs, parent(s) must be aware of the times of the programs, so their children do not have to wait for unreasonable amounts of time to be picked up. Parent(s) should have them wait inside the building to avoid the hazards of the street.
8. It is the policy of the Library that staff members will not transport children from the Library to any other location.

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