

Children in the Library Policy

LIBRARY VISITS are an important part of a child's creative and intellectual growth. Our staff wants your child's visit to be a rewarding and positive experience that encourages a love of reading for pleasure and knowledge for a lifetime. Children visiting our library receive the same welcome, assistance, and respect as any other valued patron.

It is tempting to believe the library is a haven that your child can visit without worrying about safety. However, a library is a public building, open to all. Please use the same precautions for ensuring your child's safety that you would in any other public location.

While our staff is concerned about the well-being of our patrons, we cannot be responsible for keeping your child safe from harm.

- The library staff requests that a child **10 years of age and younger be under the supervision of a parent or adult caregiver** who assumes responsibility for him or her during their entire stay in the library.
- **If your child is participating in a supervised program, please remain in the building.** It is important that you are available in case your child needs to leave the program.
- **We also ask you to consider the rights of all library users.** Children left on their own often run, climb, and express themselves more loudly than other patrons appreciate.
- **If a child's behavior is disruptive, the family may be asked to leave.** Please help us maintain an environment that allows for everyone's enjoyment.
- Children older than 10 years of age may be left unsupervised to work on their specific library projects. **If they are disruptive** you may be asked to limit their time left alone in the library, or you may be called and asked to come pick up your child.
- We suggest that your child has **some form of identification** including his/her telephone number.

In the event an emergency forces the immediate closing of the library, children should know what procedure to follow as determined by their parents or adult caregivers.

If a minor - anyone under the age of 16 - is left at the library at closing time or in the event of an emergency situation, staff will attempt to contact the parents or adult caregivers. If the parents or adult caregivers cannot be contacted, staff will notify the police.

We hope that these guidelines will help ensure the safety of your child and promote the enjoyment of all patrons using the library.

**Approved by the Board of Directors
October 11, 2000**