

## **Safe Child Policy**

The children's room is reserved for children, their parents, guardians, caregivers and educators. Adults that are not supervising a child or checking out materials will be asked to leave.

## **Unattended Child Policy**

The library encourages frequent visits by children accompanied by their caregivers. It is important to note that the library, including the children's area, is a public space. Library staff cannot provide child care, assume responsibility for children's safety, or be placed in the position of supervising unattended children. Parents, guardians, caregivers and teachers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library. All patrons, including children, are expected to abide by the Library's Patron Code of Behavior.

### **Policy for Children ages 9 and younger:**

- Children ages 9 and younger must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of (and in visual contact with) the child. The caregiver must be at least 16 years old.
- If a child ages 9 and younger is found unattended, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver in the Library and inform him/her of the Unattended Child policy.
- If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, Library staff will ask the child for the parent/caregivers contact information and try to contact the parent. If the parent cannot be contacted, library staff will contact local authorities.

### **Policy for Children ages 10 and older:**

- Children ages 10 and older may use the Library unattended. However the parent/caregiver is still responsible for the behavior and the wellbeing of the child.

- If a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library without an adult.
- Unaccompanied children ages 10 and over, failing to adhere to the Library's Patron Code of Behavior, may be asked to leave the Library. Prior to asking child patrons ages 10-12 to leave, library staff will attempt to contact parents, however, if parents are unreachable, Library staff reserves the right to contact the local authorities at their discretion.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for the whereabouts of an unattended child who has been asked to leave Library property.
- Children must know how to reach an adult caregiver in case of emergency and must be picked up from the library before the library closes.

## **General**

- If a child violates the Library's Patron Code of Behavior the child and the parent/caregiver will be informed of the policy. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child and parent/caregiver will be asked to leave the library.
- In any situation involving the safety of children, and specifically whenever the parent/caregiver or police are contacted, staff will complete an Incident Report.

## **Children's Computers**

Computers in the children's area are limited to children ages 15 and younger. It is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver to ensure appropriate use of computers by children. All children, regardless of age, are to be supervised by a parent/caregiver while using computers.

## **Children's Programs/Events**

- Children ages 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Unless otherwise indicated by staff, the parent/caregiver is required to stay with the child during the program.
- Some programs are age specific and children outside of the age limits for the program may not be allowed to participate. Check with library staff.
- Some programs will require registration to participate. This will be indicated in advertising for the program. For these programs children will not be allowed to participate if proper registration has not been completed.

