

CHILD PATRON POLICY

Parents are encouraged at all times to come to the library with their children. The library is not responsible for unattended children. The library cannot ensure the safety of any library patron of any age, especially children. Library staff duties cannot include babysitting or taking over any parental responsibilities for children when they come into the library. While the library is concerned about the safety and welfare of all children, parents and caregivers are the ones responsible for safety and welfare, as well as monitoring children's activities and behavior. Some areas of the library are primarily intended for adult use. Children will need closer supervision in these areas.

Children under the age of seven must be directly supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver who is at least 14 years of age or older. The parent/caregiver must remain with the child while in the library. Parents/caregivers are responsible for the safety and appropriate behavior of each child in their care. Parents/caregivers cannot leave young children unattended anywhere while using other parts of the library.

Children or groups of children visiting the library from any preschool, day care, or babysitting facility must also be directly supervised at all times by caregivers to ensure safety and monitor behavior. The basic principle that in this shared space, no one person's behavior may interfere with some one else's use of the library.

Computers can be harmed by inappropriate actions, especially by children who cannot read instructions. If your child cannot read, a parent/caregiver must always help the child use the computers in the appropriate way.

We respect the privacy of all library patrons and will intervene only when, in the opinion of the library staff, the safety and well being of a child is threatened. A child or children left habitually unattended is deemed to be at risk. If a parent or guardian of an unattended child cannot be contacted or located immediately, the library will contact the local law enforcement or child protective authorities to take custody of the child. The local law enforcement authorities will also be given custody of a child left at the library unattended at closing time of the library.

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