

Children in the Library

Policy

The Irving Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, use our collections and services, and attend programs. Please note the following:

Access to Children's Areas

The Children's area of the Library is specifically designed to serve the needs of young customers. Adults who are unaccompanied by one or more children in the children's area of the Library will be asked to move to another area if it is determined they have no specific need to be utilizing the children's area.

Library User Expectations and Responsibilities

The conduct, safety, and supervision of children while on Library premises are the responsibility of parents and caregivers. Library staff strive to ensure that all buildings are operated in a safe manner; however, parents and caregivers should remember that public libraries are open to all.

Children under the age of 10 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult (18 years or older). If a child under the age of 10 is attending a Library program, a parent/caregiver must be in the building and aware of the location and behavior of his/her child. Supervising adults must be close at hand.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for being aware of the Library's hours of operation and should be aware that a Library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues.

Children over the age of 10 who are attending the library without a parent should have the contact information of a responsible adult or caregiver with them while they visit the library.

All children in the Library must follow the Customer Conduct Policy. Children who do not follow these rules are subject to the same consequences as other library users, including being required to leave the Library or losing library privileges.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for monitoring, supervising and deciding which Internet sites are appropriate for minors in their custody. While the Library uses filtering software on our public computers in order to provide for the safety of our minor users, computer filters cannot guarantee that all potentially objectionable material is removed.

Staff Role

Library staff are available to assist and support children with their use of Library resources.

Library staff cannot provide child care for unattended children or assume responsibility for children's safety.

In order to ensure a positive Library experience for everyone, if a child appears not to be sufficiently capable or mature to be on Library premises without supervision, staff will undertake the following actions:

Staff will make a concerted effort to locate the child's caregiver in the Library, express concern for the child's safety and explain this policy.

If unable to locate the parent or caregiver in the Library, staff will make a concerted effort to contact the parent or caregiver to pick up the child.

If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within a reasonable time, Library staff will contact the appropriate authorities to pick up the child.

At closing, if a parent or guardian of an unaccompanied child has not arrived within 15 minutes, staff will contact the appropriate authorities. Two staff members will remain with the child until the parent, caregiver or authorities arrive. Staff will not transport any child from the Library to another location.