

CUS3
SAFE CHILD POLICY

The library provides an array of services to children from preschool age through high school age. Library children's areas are reserved for children, their parents, guardians, teachers, caregivers, and people researching children's literature.

The library encourages frequent visits by children and their families. However, library staff cannot provide childcare or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children.

Children are expected to behave in a manner conducive to maintaining an appropriate atmosphere in the building for all customers

Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both children and adults need to be aware of library hours.

Unattended Children

Any child under the age of nine (9) must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver. Parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers may not leave children alone or in the care of other children who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care.

As in all public places, *stranger danger* is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone.

Library staff will wait with unattended children under the age of 16 for up to 20 minutes after closing. After 20 minutes, if no caregiver has arrived, staff will call the police to assume care of the child.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for being aware of the library's hours of operation. Library staff cannot give rides to any child.

Library staff will use their best judgment in each situation to ensure the safety of the child. The library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibilities.

Reviewed and adopted by the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Board on April 16, 2009

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