

Hickory Public Library

Child Safety Policy

The Hickory Public Library welcomes children of all ages. We hope we can provide a happy, safe, and productive atmosphere to introduce children to lifelong learning at their public library.

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the care, safety and behavior of their children under the age of 18, both within the library building and on library grounds, regardless of whether or not they accompany their child(ren).

SUPERVISORY GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SAFETY

For reasons of safety, all children 11 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver 16 years of age or older while visiting the library.

Children nine (9) years of age and younger should remain under the immediate supervision of a parent, legal guardian, or appointed caregiver as defined above at all times while visiting the library. The responsible person will monitor the child's behavior and stay with them at all times while they are in the library.

Caregivers accompanying a child of 10 or 11 years old must remain in the library building and be available to tend to any emergencies and/or respond to any disruptive behavior by the child.

The library's Disruptive Behavior Policy applies to all patrons, regardless of age.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN AT CLOSING TIME

- Staff members will ask any unattended minors in the library just prior to closing how he/she is going to reach home. Staff will offer the use of the phone to call a parent/caregiver.
- If a minor 11 years of age or younger has no parent/caregiver with them at closing time, two staff members will wait with the minor for 15 minutes after closing time.
- If no parent/caregiver can be reached, staff will call the local police department and will wait with the child to ensure his/her safety until a law enforcement officer arrives.

ADULTS IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA

To promote the active and safe use of the library by children, adults unaccompanied by children are not to remain in the children's area of the library. Adults unaccompanied by children may enter the children's area to obtain books or other materials, and then should leave the area and go to the general area of the library. A second violation of this policy may lead to expulsion from the library. Patrons are always encouraged to ask library staff for assistance with any question they may have.

Approved by City Council 8-7-12