

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Safe Child Policy

Philosophy behind the Safe Child Policy

The Racine Public Library welcomes children of all ages. It is a doorway to life-long learning. The public library is, however, a public building. As such anybody can come into it, law-abiding or otherwise.

Library staff have many duties to perform in order to serve the public. They cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each patron, including children. Staff will not take over parental responsibilities for children who come into the library.

Any number of emergencies could take place in a public building. It is for the safety of each child that the Racine Public Library has adopted this Safe Child Policy.

Safe Child Policy

Children age seven or younger must be accompanied by a caregiver who acknowledges responsibility for the child, during their entire stay in the library. A person under the age of twelve will not be considered a responsible caregiver; this includes siblings. The caregiver is responsible for the child's behavior while in the building.

Children attending a family program must be supervised by a caregiver. Children participating in a class visit must be supervised by the accompanying teacher and the teacher must remain with the students at all times.

Children age eight or over may remain in the library unattended, provided they follow all library rules as listed in the Policy on Patron Behavior, unless special circumstances, defined in the **Safe Child Procedures**, exist.

Safe Child Policy Procedures

All children are subject to the Policy on Patron Behavior. Library staff or security will intervene when a child is violating library rules and take whatever action is considered appropriate including - but not limited to – notifying the child’s caregiver, summoning the police, restricting library privileges and/or access to the library.

Child left unattended

- If a child under the age of eight is left unattended and the caregiver cannot be located, the security guard will be called.
- If a caregiver is not found in the building, law enforcement officials will be contacted and the child will stay with the security guard or library staff until law enforcement officials arrive.

Child left unattended at closing

- At closing, if a child who is age fifteen or younger is left unattended in the library and a caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within fifteen minutes, law enforcement officials will be contacted. The security guard and the Librarian In Charge will wait with the child until law enforcement officials arrive.

Special Circumstances

- If a child becomes ill or injured and a caregiver cannot be contacted, law enforcement officials or, if appropriate, a rescue squad will be called.
- Patrons with special needs over the age of seven who require a caregiver must be accompanied by that caregiver at all times.

Approved by the Library Board January 20, 2000; Revised August 19, 2004; November 17, 2005; May 19, 2016; January 18, 2018.