

GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SAFETY IN THE LIBRARY

The Wabash Carnegie Public Library encourages children and teens to utilize its facility, services and collection. Staff members are available to help and support youth; however, employees do not function as caregivers or babysitters. It is not the Library's role to provide long- or short-term childcare or supervision, and staff cannot accept responsibility for the safety and supervision of individuals or groups.

1. In order to provide a safe environment for everyone:
 - a. The library advises parents and caregivers that they are responsible at all times for the behavior and well-being of their children while they are in the library. The library assumes no responsibility for children on the library premises.
 - b. The library reserves the right to limit the stay of unattended minors. Children and teens who engage in inappropriate behavior will be told to leave the library and will lose their library privileges temporarily as determined by the Youth Services Librarian or Library Director.
 - c. Children under the age of seven must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver.
 - d. All children and teens must be picked up at least 15 minutes prior to the library's closing. If arrangements have not been made and the safety of the child is in doubt, library staff will contact local law enforcement personnel.
 - e. The library is not responsible for the care and safety of children or teens who are traveling to and from the library.
 - f. Children or teens who appear sick or who are suspected to have a communicable disease will be told to leave the library. Parents and caregivers are expected to use discretion and keep children at home when they are unwell. Curbside service and sick kid kits are available upon request.
 - g. In the library's effort to provide a welcoming atmosphere for our young patrons, both children and teens, the Library reserves the right to restrict adult patron use of children and teen areas within its buildings. Adults using youth areas without a minor or need for youth collections or services will be instructed to leave youth areas.
2. Appropriate library behavior includes, but is not limited to: doing homework, researching topics, writing, drawing, browsing for books, playing in the toy area, thinking, daydreaming, reading, quietly discussing books with others, playing on iPads or computers, or working on group projects.
3. Inappropriate library behavior includes, but is not limited to: running, throwing, eating, loud or abusive talking, fighting, moving furniture, damaging library property, materials or furnishings, ignoring instructions from library staff.
4. A child is defined as anyone under 18 years of age.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, February 20, 2024

Wabash Carnegie Public Library