Safe Child Policy

Effective 1/2003

Policy Statement

Responsibility

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). It is the responsibility of the library staff to determine whether a child’s behavior is problematic and to report suspected abuse or neglect. (Legal Reference G.S. 7B-301: Duty to report abuse, neglect, dependency, or death due to maltreatment.)

Supervisory Guidelines for Child Safety

For reasons of safety, children under the age of 7 should be under supervision (parent, legal guardian or caregiver over the age of 16) while in the library.

Children ages 7 to 12 need not be in the immediate presence of a parent, caregiver or legal guardian provided they abide by all aspects of the Disruptive Behavior Policy, but the aforementioned should be somewhere in the library building.

NOTE: Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult when they are using the Internet.

Unattended Children at Closing

It is strongly advised that children requiring transportation be picked up 10 minutes before closing time. If a child under age 16 is left unattended at closing time:

- The Department of Public Safety will be notified to come and pick up the child. The library staff will wait inside the library with the child until the Public Safety Officer arrives.
- It is the decision of the responding officer to remain at the library with the child or take the child to the Public Safety Headquarters.

Disruptive Behavior

The Library’s Disruptive Behavior Policy applies to all patrons, regardless of age.

This policy and guidelines apply to all children using the library and their parents, legal guardians and caregivers.