

Northville District Library
Policy on
the Safety and Well-being of Children at the Library

Concern for the well-being of children using the Library is fundamental to the Library's service to them. While the Library seeks to maintain a safe and secure environment, it must be recognized that this is a public building, which anyone may enter.

Responsibility for children using the Library rests with the parent or assigned caregiver, not with Library personnel. The Library is not responsible for children left unattended, whether they are within the Library or they leave the Library.

For very young children, the parent or caregiver should be within close proximity at all times, including during programs, so that the child will feel secure.

Parents are the best judges of whether their children can visit the Library alone. Therefore, they must also accept responsibility for their decisions in regard to this matter. However, parents or responsible caregivers of children age 6 and younger must accompany these children at all times while in the Library.

Children will be expected to abide by the posted Library Code of Conduct. If a child's behavior is inappropriate to the extent that he or she is asked to leave the Library, Library staff will attempt to contact the parent when the child is 12 years old or younger. If unable to reach a parent or guardian, staff reserves the right to contact the police.

At 10 minutes after closing, if a child age 12 years old or younger is left unattended, a staff member will place a phone call to the Northville Police Dispatch at 248-349-1234 and ask them to come to the Library for an unattended child. Two staff members will remain with the child until the police arrive. Staff will also leave a note on the Main Entrance door of the Library stating the child's name and time at which the child was turned over to the police along with the police phone number noted above. Under no circumstances will a staff member drive a child home or to any other location.

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