

## **Safe Child Policy**

### Parent-Library Partnership

Dear Parent,

You ~~have~~ applied for library privileges for your child because you are interested in providing your child with a variety of educational and enriching experiences. We want to be partners with you and provide an enjoyable experience for your child while at the library.

Our role in this partnership is to select diverse, quality materials that will challenge, interest, and inform children. Your role in this partnership is to see that materials borrowed by your child are appropriate. It is also your responsibility to make sure your child returns materials in a timely manner and in good condition.

We want the York Township Library to be a welcoming, safe place for children. Our staff has many duties to perform to serve all patrons in the best way possible. For this reason, the staff cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of our smallest patrons - your children.

Staff cannot assume the responsibility of your children's care when they are in the library. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be approached by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or be injured. We are primarily concerned with your children's safety, and we believe that our policy helps ensure their well-being.

Please read through the following rules carefully.

### **Our Safe Child Rules**

- Parents/caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior in the library.
- Parents are responsible for understanding and explaining the library rules to their children. The rules and policies have been developed to safeguard the collection and ensure fairness for all library users.
- All children under the age of 8 are to be directly supervised by an adult or an individual age 14 or older at all times. The library in no way assumes responsibility for any child left unattended.
- Profanity and inappropriate behavior are prohibited in the library, on library grounds, and at library events.
- Parents are to set reasonable time limits for their children's library visits. Children may attend library programs without a parent if they are registered, but parents must immediately pick up children upon conclusion of the program.
- Parents are to let us know if they or their children are unable to find the type of material they seek. We welcome suggestions for materials that will broaden our collection and improve our services.
- Parents are responsible for the types of materials checked out by their children and their selection choices. The library staff does not limit choices or censor materials.

- Parents are financially responsible for any damages to library materials, equipment, or property incurred by their children.
- Parents who attend children's programming with their children are to demonstrate good listening habits.
- Parents must keep sick children at home and not bring them to the library, especially during children's programming when illness may easily be spread to other children.

#### We Care about the Safety of Your Child

If a child under the age of 8 is unattended while the library is open, library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, law enforcement officials will be called, and the child will be placed in their care.

If a child under the age of 14 has not been picked up by a parent/caregiver at closing, library staff will attempt to contact their parents. If parents cannot be reached, law enforcement officials will be called, and the child will be placed in their care.

If a child under the age of 14 is unattended when the library is open and the child has become ill or frightened, has become disruptive and will not respond to verbal warnings from library staff, is upset because of weather conditions, long hours out of contact with the parent/caregiver, or other special circumstances, library staff will attempt to contact their parents. If parents cannot be reached, law enforcement officials will be called, and the child will be placed in their care.

After a child has been placed in the care of law enforcement personnel, the staff will attempt to reach the parent/caregiver to inform them. A staff member will not give a child a ride home.

Parents who disregard library policy regarding this matter may be reported to the appropriate social services agency and may lose all library privileges.

*Adopted as policy for the York Township Public Library by the Board of Trustees: March 18, 2020*

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