

Children in the Library Policy

(Adopted July 2019)

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library welcomes and encourages children and families to use and enjoy the library and its services to the fullest extent. While visiting, it is important to keep in mind that while we strive to create a welcoming environment, the library is still a public place open to anyone and everyone. As such, responsible parties such as parents, grandparents, legal guardians, custodians, and caregivers must ensure the safety and well being of their charges at all times and must directly supervise children eight years of age or younger while in the library and on library property. Library staff can not assume the responsibility of supervising children nor are they responsible if unattended children of any age leave library property alone or with others.

For the purpose of this policy, the terms “custodian” and “caregiver” refer to an individual twelve (12) years of age or older who is charged with the responsibility of supervising a child or children. Furthermore, the library establishes twelve (12) as the minimum age in which an individual is able to properly supervise children eight years of age or younger.

Children eight years of age and younger:

1. Must be supervised at all times by a responsible party 12 years of age or older and must follow library rules, regulations, and policies;
2. Supervision is defined as being actively engaged with and located within the immediate vicinity of and within visual contact of the child or children;
3. The library in no way assumes responsibility for any child eight or younger left unsupervised on library property;
4. If a child in this age group is found unsupervised, library staff will attempt to locate the responsible party in the library and present them with this policy;
5. In the event a responsible party can not be located, staff will contact law enforcement.

Children nine to seventeen years of age:

1. Children must follow library rules, regulations, and policies;
2. The library in no way assumes responsibility for unattended children on library property;
3. Staff are not responsible for children asked to leave the library for policy violations;
4. Children must be picked up by closing time;
5. Law enforcement may be called for children not picked up within 15 minutes of closing.

Under no circumstance are library staff permitted to give children rides, allow them in their vehicle, or leave library property with them. Two library employees must stay with the child until either law enforcement or a responsible party arrives to take charge of the child.

The library is a mandatory reporting agency under state statute; repeat offenders of this policy as well as other situations of suspected abuse and/or neglect will be reported to the Indiana Department of Child Services.

