



Children in the Library Policy

The Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children of all ages. The Library, however, is a busy public building and public places are not always safe for unattended children. Parents are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children in the Library and on Library property, whether or not the parents are in attendance. Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children.

Children Under the Age of Eight (8)

Children under the age of eight (8) may not be left unattended in the Library and must be accompanied by a caregiver. The Library requires that the caregiver be the child's parent or legal guardian or an adult or adolescent age fourteen (14) or older who has been designated by the parent or guardian to care for the child.

Caregivers accompanying children ages birth through seven (7) shall remain in the same general area of the Library as the child at all times and keep the child in their line of sight. These rules apply at all times unless the child is attending a designated library program where adult presence is not required, during which time adults accompanying children under eight (8) years of age must remain in the Library and must promptly pick up their child as soon as the program is over.

Children Ages Eight (8) and Up

Children ages eight (8) and up are welcome to use the Library unattended as long as they are mature enough to follow Library rules and observe proper conduct. Any child who is at the Library without supervision must be able to contact a responsible person in case of emergency or for transportation needs.

Children with Special Needs

Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities which affect decision-making skills or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times. Library patrons needing any special accommodations should communicate these needs to Library staff.

Disruptive Behavior in Children

If a child is being disruptive to other patrons or violating Library rules, Library staff will first issue a verbal warning to the child and/or their caregiver informing them that the child's behavior is not acceptable. Children who continue to engage in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the Library; the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Unaccompanied Minors at Closing

Parents are responsible for being aware of Library hours and for picking up their child(ren) before closing. If a child is not picked up within 15 minutes of the Library's closing time, the Library staff reserve the right to contact the Morton Grove Police Department for assistance. Under no circumstances will Library staff transport any child in a personal or library vehicle to the child's home or to any other location.

Approved by the Morton Grove Public Library Board of Trustees, June 11, 2015

Reviewed and approved April 13, 2017; May 9, 2019; April 8, 2021

Amendment to Children in the Library Policy

During the Restore Illinois plan phases 1-4, children under the age of thirteen (13) shall not be left unattended in the Library for any reason and must be accompanied by an adult aged eighteen (18) and older.

This amendment to the Children in the Library Policy shall be lifted automatically when the Illinois Department of Public Health declares that the state has reached Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan. The policy shall be reinstated automatically should the Illinois Department of Public Health determine that the state must return to any phase lower than Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan.

Adopted July 9, 2020; Reviewed and approved April 8, 2021