

GEORGE HAIL FREE LIBRARY

YOUTH SUPERVISION POLICY

PURPOSE:

The library encourages children of all ages to use the library. In order to establish and maintain a safe environment for children using the children's services room as well as other areas, the following constitutes Library policy concerning the supervision of children.

POLICY:

The library is defined as the building, the interior of the building, parking lot and any area generally considered library property. Libraries are considered public buildings and are open to all for use of the computers and other library services.

Children ten (10) years of age and younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other responsible caregiver who is an adult over the age of 18 years of age. Any unaccompanied child will be reported to the police.

While the staff will do its best to be aware of the interaction of children with patrons, **parents are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children in the library. The library does not act in loco parentis.**

The library staff strives to ensure the safety of children in the library, but they also have other duties and responsibilities. As a result, staff cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each patron, including children. It is the responsibility of the parents to supervise their children when using the library.

Children's behavior must not disrupt or interfere with the use of the library by others, or present a safety hazard to children themselves, other users, or library property. Should this occur, the staff will take appropriate measures to ensure everyone's safety.

If the situation warrants, the child and accompanying adult(s) will be told to leave.

Staff members are strictly prohibited from transporting children home, or to any other location.

Parents/caregivers must remain in the same room as their children ages 10 and younger while using library facilities. While children over the age of 10 are permitted in the library without a parent or caregiver, it is important to recognize that the library is not a recreation center. Parents must also remember that libraries are public buildings and as such *anyone* can enter the building and use the computers and other services. While the staff will do its best to watch the interaction of children with patrons, **parents are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children in the library, whether or not the parents are present.**

Children, like all other Library users, are required to follow the Library's rules and regulations.