

Safe Child Philosophy

We are glad your children are here! We want the Tulsa City-County Library to be a welcoming, educational and safe place for your child.

We are primarily concerned with your child's safety, and it is for the safety of each child that the library has adopted this safe child philosophy.

The Library staff is here to serve the public and has many duties to perform in order to help all of our customers in the best way possible.

As a result, the staff cannot monitor the location, safety or behavior of your child.

Responsibilities of Library Staff

- When a child is behaving in a noisy, unruly or disruptive manner, a staff member will advise the child to stop the behavior and explain the behavior expected of them.
- If disruptive behavior continues, a staff member (or security) will locate the parent/caretaker and explain that the child is disturbing others and that the parent is responsible for the child's behavior.
- If the parent/caregiver is not in the library, staff will attempt to reach them by phone. In extreme cases, if the parent/caregiver cannot be reached, the police will be called.
- If the parent/caretaker cannot or will not control the child, they will be asked to leave until the child's behavior improves.
- Unless the child is in danger or harming him/herself or others, the staff member will not touch or pick up the child.

Responsibilities of Parents or Caretakers

- Parents/caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior and supervision of their children at all times in the Library and on Library property. Parents are responsible for their children even when the parent is not present in the building.
- We expect children left unattended in the library to be mature enough to follow the library rules on their own, to be able to take responsibility for their own safety and to be able to leave the library without an adult.
- Parents/caregivers should not view the library as an alternative to long or short-term child care. Unlike a childcare facility, the library is not a closed environment. Staff cannot monitor everyone who enters, and all customers are free to use any public area within the library.
- Please remember this is a public building. For your child's safety, your child should remain in view. You are responsible for the safety, behavior and supervision of your child at all times.
- Please monitor your child's activities on the computer.
- Be kind to your children even if they do not follow the library rules. Bring them to the library often. Teach them library manners one at a time. If they are too noisy, take them to the lobby for a "time out," but please do not shout at them. They will learn.

Responsibilities of Children

The librarian is here to help you. Please ask!

People who come to the library want to read, use the computer and study.

So please:

- Use your quiet voice
- Walk
- Take hiding, jumping and running games outside the library.
- Be patient and wait your turn.
- Treat books with care and put them on a table when you finish.

Be safe in the library. Stay with the person who brought you.