

Child Safety Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees 2/20/2019

The North Valley Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for children using the library rests at all times with the parent(s) or assigned caregiver(s), including older siblings, and not with library personnel.

Young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. Busy staff cannot supervise children and are unable to know if children are leaving the building with their parents or strangers. In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been created:

1. Parents or assigned caregivers are responsible for their children in the library, and may not leave children under the age of 10 unattended.
2. Children age 10 and older who are able to use the library independently must know how to reach a parent or assigned caregiver in case of an emergency.
3. People of any age who behave disruptively may be asked to leave the library.
4. Parents should be aware of library hours. If a child is left unattended at the library at closing time, two staff members will remain with the child in the library and attempt to contact his/her parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian does not arrive to pick up the child within a reasonable timeframe (as determined by the staff member on duty), library staff will call the police. Under no circumstances will library staff transport the child from the library building.
5. If children are left unattended repeatedly and/or for long periods of time, the staff will notify parent(s) or assigned caregiver(s) of the library's policies, and may contact the police if they are concerned for the child's safety.
6. When a child under 10 is participating in a library program, the parent or caregiver should remain in the building. Certain library programs may require a parent or assigned caregiver to provide contact information to library staff before leaving a child.
7. The youth services specialist will have a procedure in place to ensure that children do not exit the building unattended during programs. Parents must follow this procedure.
8. Groups of children such as school classes, day cares, tours, etc. must be supervised by at least one responsible adult at all times while in the library.
9. Adults may be asked to leave the children's or young adult areas of the library if they are not accompanying a child and do not have a legitimate reason for being in the youth areas.
10. Whether attending a children's event or visiting the library in general, children ages 5 and under must be accompanied while using the restroom, either by their parent/guardian or older sibling.