



Child Safety Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees 11/19/2025

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. 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. For the purposes of this policy "unattended" means a child who is not within the sight and vocal contact of the child's parent, caregiver, or guardian.
2. Children age 10 and older who can 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 15 minutes, 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.
7. The youth programmer(s) 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 while in the library.
9. Staff are authorized to direct adult patrons without children to leave the children's area.
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.

11. Although responsibility for children rests with parent, caregiver or guardian at all times, library staff are authorized to administer or assist a child or minor present in Library in the event the child or minor is experiencing an illness, episode, or other emergency.

The Director or designated employee is authorized to interpret and implement this policy including the exclusive authority to resolve grievances or disputes about the implementation of this policy by Library staff.