

POLICY: Responsibility for Children in the Library

Purpose

A person's right to use the library shall not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views. This policy defines the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and staff with respect to children, and it defines the library's expectations of children's behavior when in the library.

Statement of Policy

The Children's Room is accessible to all, but the spaces are primarily intended for children from birth through elementary school age, along with their caregivers, and individuals for whom these spaces are developmentally appropriate. We strive to ensure that these spaces are safe, relaxing and responsive to the needs and interests of children from birth through elementary school age. For this reason, these children will be given priority for service and for the use of these spaces, including the furniture and computers.

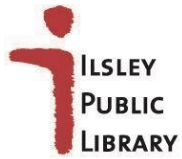
Adults are encouraged to accompany their children to the Children's Room and to use the collections and space in a way deemed appropriate by staff. Adults not accompanied by children may be asked to use the facilities, services, and equipment in the adult sections of the library. Like other users of the library, children are expected to observe the library's Rules of Conduct.

Library staff are not responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the library. Children under the age of 5 must be actively supervised by an adult caregiver. A responsible person 13 or older must at all times supervise children 8 and under unless the child is attending a scheduled library program that does not require additional supervision.

Parents or guardians have full responsibility to oversee and monitor their children's behavior and their selection of library materials, computers, and the Internet. Library computers are unfiltered. Computer usage deemed inappropriate for the Children's Room may be redirected to other areas of the library. As required by law, the library will disclose information about what a child under the age of 12 has viewed or borrowed upon the request of the minor's parent or guardian. See 22 Vt. Stat. Ann. § 172 (b)(4).

Library staff may not transport children in their personal vehicles during work hours.

The staff is not responsible for unattended children. If a child becomes separated from their caregiver, library staff will try to locate the missing caregiver. If a caregiver cannot be located within a reasonable time frame, the librarian in charge will call the Police Department to remain with the child..



Library staff are not mandated reporters, but may report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. The library does not report suspected truanancies.

Sources

22 Vt. Stat. Ann. § 172

Adopted by the Ilsley Public Library Board of Trustees on September, 1995

Amended on October 15, 2018; November 9, 2020; December 11, 2023; August 12, 2024; April 13, 2026