

BRAINERD MEMORIAL LIBRARY POLICY CONCERNING CHILDREN

In order to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the library, and in order to provide for the general safety of children using the library:

1. All children 6 years or younger shall, at all times, be attended, within sight, and adequately supervised by a responsible person.
2. No children under 12 shall be left unsupervised in the library. A responsible person must stay somewhere in the library building.
3. Parents are responsible for children's behavior in the library. This is a controlled environment and the library is not equipped for childcare. Library staff are not responsible for providing supervision for children while the person responsible for them is outside or in another part of the library building. Staff does not monitor children leaving the building and it is not their responsibility to know with whom a child is leaving.
4. It is not the function of the librarian to deal with disruptive children. A disruptive child may be asked to leave.
5. During children's programs a parent or responsible person must remain within sight to ensure that his/her child does not disrupt the event or disturb others.
6. Children over 12 and young adults whose parents are not in the building and who are disruptive will be asked for their name and phone number. Parents will be called to come to the library to pick up the children.

Parents and other care givers should be aware of the library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children.

1. The library is not responsible for the care and supervision of children.
2. If a responsible person does not pick up the child within 30 minutes after closing, staff may call for police assistance. Please note that this is a serious step for the library to take. If police are called when a responsible person fails to pick up the child, it may be considered risk of injury to a minor and it could be a criminal offense.
3. Under no circumstances will a staff member transport children home or to any other destination.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are referred to Connecticut General Statute 53-21a which describes the legal consequences that can result from leaving children under the age of twelve unattended in a public place.

It is the library's responsibility to provide this information to patrons and to post it clearly within the building.

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