

C11. CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

POLICY:

The Park Ridge Public Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children, however library staff do not function in loco parentis (i.e., in the position or place of a parent). The responsibility for the actions and behaviors of minors under the age of 18 who use the Library must be borne by the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. A caregiver must be age 12 or older.

RULES:

1. Children ages birth - 4 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent, guardian, or caregiver. Direct supervision means the child and caregiver are within arms length and the caregiver's attention is on the child.
2. Children ages 5-8 must have a parent, guardian, or caregiver in the Library building for the duration of the child's visit. Children of this age may attend a Library program unaccompanied. However, the parent, guardian or caregiver is expected to remain in the library building and immediately join their child at the end of the program.
3. Unattended children age 9 and over are free to use the Library's resources as long as needed, provided that their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members and they adhere to the *Conduct in the Library* policy.
4. The Children's Services Department, on the Library's first floor, is for the use of children and adults accompanied by children. The Teen Loft, on the Library's third floor, is intended for the independent use of children, grades six through twelve. Adults without children are asked to utilize the spaces provided in the Adult Services Department.
5. If a child, under the age of 12, remains longer than 15 minutes after the building has closed, the Library staff member in charge will contact the police. The Library staff member in charge and an additional staff member will stay with the child until a parent, guardian, or police arrive.

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