

RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING MINORS POLICY

Purpose

The Reading Public Library strives to create a warm, inviting, and fun environment for children aged birth through 17. The Library offers programs and services that encourage frequent visits by minors, families, and caregivers to help develop a love of books, reading, and learning. This policy acknowledges that in addition to the Patron Rights and Responsibilities Policy, there are additional considerations for persons under the age of 18 (minors).

Parents and caregivers are solely responsible for the behavior and safety of minors visiting the Library and for determining age-appropriate materials.

Unattended Children

Staff do not provide childcare and are not responsible for supervising unattended children.

1. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent or caregiver at least 14 years of age.
2. For adequate supervision, the parent or caregiver must be on the same floor as their children under 10 years of age.

General

1. In the event of an emergency or unexpected closing, minors ages 10 and above should have a means of contacting a parent or caregiver.
2. All minors must be picked up or have transportation arranged before the Library closes. Library staff have no obligation to remain with minors after hours if transportation has not arrived at the time of Library closing.
3. Library staff reserves the right to contact the Reading Police Department to assist with safety issues involving all minors when a parent or caregiver is unavailable.
4. Library staff members will not transport minors from the Library to any other location.

Appropriate Use of Youth Spaces

The Children's Room and any other designated children's space are reserved for children ages 0-12. The Teen Room and any other designated teen space are reserved for youths ages 11 to 17. Parents, caregivers, teachers, and other adults are permitted

in these spaces when accompanying a youth or actively using or searching the collections.

This applies to Children's and Teen programs and events, which are extensions of these youth spaces. Adults without a child or teen will not be allowed to attend youth events without permission from the Reading Public Library staff.

The Children's restroom is for the exclusive use of those using the space.

Those who violate this policy risk having their Library privileges restricted or revoked.

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