



The Canon City Public Library

Child Safety Policy

Canon City Public Library is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for children and their families. This Child Safety Policy outlines our commitment to ensuring the well-being of all children who visit the library. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures that promote a secure and enjoyable experience for everyone.

The children's area is intended for the use of children and their caregivers. Only parents, guardians, teachers, caregivers, and children's literature researchers can sit in designated areas; other adults in children's areas will be asked to use other parts of the library. This ensures that children and their families have adequate access to the resources provided specifically for them. Adults with children present are the only adults allowed to use the restrooms in the children's areas.

1. **Supervision:**

- Parents, guardians, or caregivers are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children while in the library.
- Children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver who is at least 12 years old.

2. **Unattended Children:**

- Children under the age of 7 should not be left unattended in the library. If a child is found without supervision, staff will attempt to locate the parent or guardian. If unsuccessful, the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

3. **Library Staff Responsibility:**

- Library staff will not assume responsibility for the supervision, care, or safety of children left unattended.
- Staff members are trained to respond to emergency situations and will contact appropriate authorities if necessary.

4. **Inappropriate Behavior:**

- Inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to harassment, bullying, or disruptive actions, will not be tolerated. Offenders may be asked to leave the premises.

5. **Internet and Technology Use:**

- Children under the age of 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian to use the library's computers and access the internet.
- Library staff will monitor computer use to ensure it aligns with our acceptable use policy.

6. **Emergency Situations:**

- In the event of an emergency or evacuation, library staff will follow established procedures to ensure the safety of all individuals in the building.

7. **Reporting Concerns:**

- Any concerns regarding the safety of a child in the library should be reported immediately to library staff. If necessary, library staff will contact the appropriate authorities.

8. Programming and Events:

- The library may offer programs and events specifically designed for children. These events will be supervised by library staff to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

9. Review and Updates:

- This Child Safety Policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in library procedures and community needs.

By adhering to these guidelines, Canon City Public Library aims to create a secure and nurturing environment where children can explore the world of literature and learning. We appreciate the cooperation of parents, guardians, and caregivers in helping us maintain a safe space for everyone.

 3/26/24
Ryan Stevens, City Administrator Date

 03/28/24
Sue Hitt, Library/Museum Board Chair Date