

Children in the Library

All of us at the Southworth Library want a safe and secure environment for children who use the library. While the library is perceived to be both safe and secure, our experience tells us that children may occasionally be at risk in the library. We ask parents and caregivers to join with us in protecting children from harm. Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. We have seen children hurt themselves and others when they run, climb on library furniture or shelving, or stand too close to our automatic doors. Please help prevent injuries by watching your children at all times.
2. Parents should be aware that there are areas of the library which are not supervised. Young children can become frightened and bewildered if left alone for even a minute or two. For safety and security reasons, young children should never be left unattended.
3. Your children are sharing the library with many other library users, some of whom need and expect a quiet library. Please be aware that the level of noise which caregivers are accustomed to may not be acceptable to others. Quiet voices are encouraged.
4. School-age children are welcome to use the library at all times. However, the library is not a substitute for supervised day-care or after school activities. Unsupervised children are a risk to themselves and others. Please find alternate after-school or other care for your children.
5. Due to the large number of children in the library and staff shortages, it is difficult for us to forward messages or phone calls for children. However, in emergencies, we will do all we can to help.
6. We are concerned when children are left unattended at closing time. Please be sure you know the library hours and promptly pick up your child before the library closes.

If your child's behavior is disruptive and/or unacceptable and it is not curtailed when requested they may be asked to leave the library for the day or for an extended period of time. Contact the Library Director for review of any such policies and procedures