



# SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

The goal of the Library is to maintain a welcoming environment that encourages families to explore library resources and share learning opportunities. The Library wants children of all ages to have a positive, safe experience. To this end, the Library requires all users to observe the West Bloomfield Township Public Library's Rules of Conduct.

For their own protection and in accordance with local township ordinance, **young children may not be left unattended in the library.** The library staff is not responsible for providing supervision and cannot act in loco parentis. Children under the age of eleven (11) years old must be accompanied by an adult, age eighteen (18) years or older, who remains with them at all times in the library to provide direct supervision. Persons under the age of 18, including siblings and babysitters, are not able to serve as caregivers. The responsibility for the safety, comfort, and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent or caregiver and not with the library employees. Library employees cannot be responsible for children who are unattended or demonstrating inappropriate behavior. Failure to comply may result in the West Bloomfield Township Police Department charging the parent or legal guardian with child abandonment under the West Bloomfield Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Article III, Section 15 – 56, Abandonment of Children and/or suspension of library privileges. Persons who fail to comply with the Rules of Conduct may be required to leave the building. The West Bloomfield Township Police Department may be called to assist if a person asked to leave fails to comply or if a child's parent or caregiver cannot be located or reached.

It is recommended that unattended children over the age of eleven (11) years old spend no more than 2 hours in the library at a single time. After 6:00 p.m., it is strongly recommended that all children be accompanied by an adult who remains in the library to provide direct supervision. The extent to which this policy and/or these time limit guidelines will be enforced will be based on the individual child's behavior, the child's safety and welfare, and their ability to observe the Rules of Conduct. The Library expects parental cooperation in meeting this policy and these guidelines.

The responsibility of use and viewing of library materials and resources by children rests solely with their parents or legal guardians. Library employees will not restrict access to materials based on age or monitor computer usage.

**AFTER LIBRARY CLOSING:** Parents or caregivers are responsible for ensuring that their child is picked up by the time the library closes. All patrons must exit the building at closing. Library employees are not able to stay late to supervise children who have not been picked up. Children who are not picked up at closing at the Main Library will be brought to the police station to wait for their ride. The police will be called for children who are not picked up at closing at the Westacres Branch.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees July 13, 2022