

Library Policy No. 19

Subject: SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN

Adopted by the Board January 8, 1993

Revised March 9, 1994; February 14, 1996; November 10, 2004; December 14, 2005; May 9, 2018; March 17, 2021; July 13, 2022; June 12, 2024

The Library's goal is for children of all ages to have a positive, safe experience. To this end, all users are required 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 a Responsible Adult Caregiver, age eighteen (18) years or older, who remains with them at all times while in the library. Persons under the age of 18, including siblings and babysitters, are not able to serve as caregivers.

Children ages birth to eight (8) years should be in direct supervision of the Responsible Adult Caregiver at all times.

The Responsible Adult Caregiver should be within sight and conversation distance at all times. The Responsible Adult Caregiver is expected to supervise the child and ensure that the child's behavior is not disturbing to other patrons.

Children between the ages of eight (8) and eleven (11) years may be in the Youth Services Room independently, with the Responsible Adult Caregiver present and readily accessible. The Responsible Adult Caregiver may not leave the Youth Services Room.

Children ages eleven (11) and older may use the library unaccompanied by an Adult Caregiver. The child must be able to promptly contact an Adult Caregiver if requested by Library staff. Parents or legal guardians, not library employees, are responsible for the safety, comfort, and behavior of their children in the library, whether or not the parent or legal guardian is present.

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.

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.

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.