

Children's Library Policy

The Skowhegan Free Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections, and programs offered by the Library. The responsibility for the child's health, safety, and behavior at the library, resides with the parent/guardian or responsible caregiver. Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children visiting the library. This policy applies to children of all ages who visit the library. To enable the library staff to promote use and access while insuring the safety of all library users, the Library Board of Trustees has established the following policy:

1. The children's area of the library is reserved for children, their parents/guardians or responsible caregivers, and adults interested in children's and young adult literature, such as teachers. Out of concern for the safety of young patrons, adults who are unaccompanied by a child or children in the children's area of the library will be asked to leave.
2. All children 10 and under must have a parent/guardian or a responsible caregiver 12 years or older with them at all times while they are in the Children's Library. The parent/guardian or responsible caregiver must stay with the child at all times. The library is not a daycare.
3. If a child becomes disruptive, library staff will provide a warning. Disruptive behavior is defined as any noisy, boisterous, or acting-out behavior, which is inappropriate in a library setting. This behavior may present a physical danger to the child or others, or may interfere with legitimate library activities. Disruptive children will be required to leave the library if the behavior continues after receiving one warning.
4. The computers in the upstairs meeting room is for child and parent/guardian or responsible caregiver use only. It is not to be used by the general public. No child

under the age of 10 will be allowed on the computer without a parent/guardian or responsible caregiver seated with them.

5. Children and their parent/guardian or responsible caregiver should be aware of the daily closing times of the library. If an unattended child has not been picked up by closing time, library personnel will attempt to notify the parent/guardian or responsible caregiver. If unsuccessful, law enforcement will be notified to pick-up the child. A message notifying the parent/guardian or responsible caregiver of the child's location will be left on the door of the library building.
6. Library staff members will not transport unattended children from the library to any other location.
7. Children, parents/guardians, or responsible caregivers who violate the rules stated above, risk having their library privileges restricted or revoked.

The Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter this policy without prior notice.

Approved 01/07/14