



Child Safety Policy

The Library Center of the Ozarks welcomes children to our facility and encourages them and their families to use the library's materials, services and programs. We strive to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages; however, the Library is not a childcare provider.

Parents, guardians, or caretakers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of children under their supervision. Library staff members are not permitted to take on that responsibility.

- Children younger than 12 years of age may not be left unattended in the Library. They must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or a caretaker, 16 years of age or older.
- If a child under the age of 12 is at the Library without proper supervision, Library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker. If the staff is unable to contact a parent or guardian, or if the parent or guardian contacted does not arrive promptly to take supervision of the child, staff will contact the Police Department.
- Children 12 and older may be left unattended if they work quietly and follow Library rules. Such children must have some form of identification and parent/guardian contact information with them. Disruptive children will be asked to leave the Library. If a problem arises and the staff is unable to contact the parent or guardian the Police Department may be called.
- If any child under the age of 16 is left unattended at closing time or in the event of an emergency, Library staff will call the Police Department. Library staff members are not permitted to transport children in personal vehicles under any circumstances.