

~Osgood Public Library ~ Safe Child Policy

The Osgood Public Library encourages children to come to the library and explore the resources that the library has to offer. However, the staff cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of our smallest patrons __ your children. Staff cannot assume the responsibility of your children's care when they are in the library. Library staff members do not take the place of parents, act as caregivers or assume responsibility for any attended or unattended child.

We expect parents/caregivers to be responsible for their children's behavior while in the library and to maintain control of their children for the safety of all concerned. Disruptive conduct which prevents others from enjoying the library or which endangers the child or others is not allowed. Please keep in mind that a public building is not a safe environment for a crawling baby or toddler. To avoid injury, small children should stay directly with the parent/caregiver.

Adults attending a meeting or library program must make arrangements for the supervision of their children.

We want children to be safe and secure while visiting the Library. As a result of our concern, we require that children under ten (10) years old be supervised by a parent or caregiver fourteen (14) years of age or older. The library may also require an older child to be supervised if the child has a history of behavior problems while at the library. The Sheriff's Department or Child Protective Services may be called any time the safety or security of an unattended child is threatened in the Library or on Library property.

The library realizes many children walk to our premises unattended. For children under the age of fourteen (14) who require transportation, we expect parents to have a responsible plan for picking up their children by closing time. The library cannot assume responsibility for children left unattended after the library closes.

At 15 minutes before closing, unattended children who require transportation will be asked to phone a parent to pick them up. A final attempt will be made at closing time to contact a parent. If a parent has not picked up their child 15 minutes after the library closed, library staff will call the Sheriff's Department. Parents will need to contact that office to make arrangements to retrieve their child. After the child has been placed in the safekeeping of law enforcement personnel, the staff will leave a note about the child's whereabouts on the door of the library. .

Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home, take a child outside the building, or remain in the building alone with an unattended child.

Parents are responsible for the types of materials checked out by their children and their selection choices. Library staff do not limit choices or censor materials.