

Child Safety Policy

South Sioux City Public Library

(Approved by the City Council of the City of South Sioux City Feb 12, 2018)

The South Sioux City Public Library welcomes all children to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for children using the Library, however, rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone, not with Library personnel. The South Sioux City Public Library, its volunteers, and its staff will not be responsible as temporary supervisors of children who are left unattended.

Young children should not be left unattended at the South Sioux City Public Library. This is an issue of safety and of proper supervision for all children, but especially those of nine (9) years old or younger who are required to be supervised continually while at the Library.

Children ages nine (9) years old or younger should not be left unattended in the Library; they **must** be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver. Responsible parties must remain in the Library with children and supervise them at all times. If children with an adult behave in a disruptive manner, it is the right of the Library staff to ask the adult and children to leave if the adult cannot/ does not tend to the children so that they behave appropriately. If a parent or responsible guardian cannot be found in the building, the proper authorities will be notified.

Children ages ten (10) years old and older may use the Library unattended subject to demonstration of appropriate behavior, conduct, and demeanor. Patrons, adult and children alike, who exhibit disruptive behavior, conduct, or demeanor (i.e. any actions within the Library which infringe on the rights of others using the Library or the extension of regular Library service) will be warned by staff one time to cease such behavior, conduct or demeanor. At the time of the second warning, Library staff may ask the patron to leave Library property. If the patron is a minor child, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent/ guardian. In extreme cases of inappropriate or threatening behavior, Library staff reserves the right to contact local law enforcement authorities.

At the close of Library service hours, all patrons, including children, will be asked to leave the Library building. Parents/guardians should make arrangements to pick their children up prior to closing as the Library cannot, and will not, assume responsibility for persons or property outside the building. In extreme instances of neglect (such as persistent discipline problems with unattended children or failing to pick up children prior to the close of Library service hours), local law enforcement or child protection authorities may be notified to take custody of the child. We respect the privacy of all Library patrons, however, and will intervene only when, in the opinion of the Library staff, the safety and well-being of a child is threatened.

This policy is designed to protect, not to discourage, children from visiting the Library. Children are welcome.

(Approved by the Advisory Board, revised 11/01/2017)