

PALM SPRINGS LIBRARY

SAFE CHILD POLICY

established August 1, 2005

Palm Springs Public Library welcomes all children and their families. We want all library users to find each visit enjoyable and productive. Our goal is to provide resources and programs that promote a lifelong learning environment. We encourage children to develop pleasure in reading and in appreciating libraries.

The library strives to maintain a safe environment, but neither the Village of Palm Springs, nor any of its employees, including the library staff is responsible for the safety and wellbeing of any library visitor.

The library staff is trained to offer public library service and is committed to assisting children with activities related to the library. The staff is not equipped to provide child-care services. The following is the library policy regarding appropriate use of the library by children and their parents or other caregivers. All library users, regardless of age, are subject to the Library Code of Conduct.

Parents are legally responsible for the behavior of their minor children (under the age of eighteen (18) years), including for any injury to other person or damage to property. They should ensure that the child knows how to contact them, at all times.

Children under the age of seven (7) years must be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver in the library. An older caregiver, at least fourteen (14) years old, must constantly remain in visual contact and conversational distance of the younger child. The library staff reserves the right to determine whether a child in the care of an older sibling or other relative or friend is receiving proper supervision.

If a child's behavior is disruptive, a staff member will ask the child or the child's caregiver to stop the child's behavior. If the behavior continues the child and the caregiver will be required to leave the library. The Department of Public Safety may be called to manage the situation, and advise the individual(s) of the trespass laws of the state. The library may also prohibit the child from returning until the problem is resolved to the satisfaction of the library.

Should a child become ill, the parent or caregiver will be contacted. If no contact can be made, the Department of Public Safety will be called to attend to the child.

If a child under the age of seven (7) years is found unattended, the library staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver to inform her or him of the policy. If the parent or caregiver cannot be contacted, the Department of Public Safety will be called, and will take temporary custody of the child. If a child is left unattended at the time of closing, an attempt will be made to contact the parent or other caregiver of the child. If the parent or caregiver cannot be contacted, the Department of Public Safety will take temporary custody of the child, and may seek protective custody through the Florida Department of Children and Families. No staff member is allowed to drive a child home or to remain after hours with an unattended child.