



## **CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY**

Providing children with learning and enrichment opportunities and resources in a safe environment is one of the library's top priorities. To that end, it is essential that children visit the library while accompanied by a responsible caregiver who can monitor and ensure the safety, comfort, usage, and behavior of children while in the library.

### **Visiting the Library**

Children under 10 years of age (ie. 9 and younger) shall at all times be attended to and adequately supervised by a responsible caregiver at least 16 years old who is responsible for the child's activity, usage, and behavior.

### **Use of Materials and Services**

The library supports the right and the responsibility of all parents and guardians to guide their children's use of the library, resources, and services. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities must monitor or advise their children.

### **Attending Programs**

- Library programs are events planned, organized, and/or implemented by library staff. Programs for children follow the Stillwater Public Library's Programming Policy.
- Children 5 years of age and under may not be left unattended in a program.
- Depending on the target age group and activity, a caregiver 16 years or older may be required to stay at programs with children 5-9 years old. Such requirements will be noted in all publicity.
- Children who display disruptive behavior will be warned and/or asked to leave the program.
- Organizations bringing children to programs must provide adequate staff to supervise all children attending with their organization.
- Repeated disruptive behavior at programs will result in staff asking the organization or guardian and child not to attend programs until the behavior is corrected.

### **At Closing**

If a supervisor is notified of a child twelve or under on library premises near closing time, the supervisor will assist the child in calling a parent or guardian. If the child has not been picked up within fifteen minutes after closing or if the child cannot make contact with a parent or guardian, the police will be notified. Two staff members will remain with

the child until the police arrive. At the supervisor's discretion, staff may take the same actions with older children.

Disagreements concerning any aspect of this policy may be appealed to the Stillwater Public Library Board

Approved: 08/27/24