

## **ANDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY SAFE CHILD POLICY**

The Anderson Public Library encourages visits by children and wants to make these occasions memorable, educational, and enjoyable. This policy has been established to achieve these goals, and also to protect and ensure the well-being of children who use the library.

Parents or caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library at all times. Children under the age of eight, or who have emotional or social difficulty, must be attended and adequately supervised by a parent or other responsible caregiver age fourteen and older at all times while in the library. Additionally, children under the age of five must always be in close proximity and within sight of the parent or caregiver responsible for their safety. The library requires that teachers and other group supervisors are responsible for the conduct of minors in their charge while they are in the library for a visit or tour. Violations of this policy may be grounds for suspension of library privileges for the group or organization.

The Library and its staff cannot, and expressly do not, assume any responsibility to supervise or care for any minor on Library premises.

### **Caregiver Responsibilities**

The Library requires that caregivers do the following:

- Monitor and approve their charge's use of books, materials, technology, and other resources of the Anderson Public Library. The Library staff has no obligation to and will make no attempt to restrict access by children to information in the Library or on its computers, with the exception to content that violates our acceptable use of the Internet policy.
- Ensure that their charge exhibits appropriate behavior in the Library as described in the Library's Code of Conduct and Food and Beverage Policy.
- Be alert to "stranger danger." The Library, unlike a school, is an open facility with few restrictions on who may visit. Also, the Library staff does not and cannot monitor when children leave and/or with whom they may be leaving.
- Ensure that their children do not experience, make, or provoke any inappropriate physical contact with other children or adults. Request help from the Library staff, if necessary, to accomplish this.
- Be responsible for their charge's behavior while he/she participates in Library programs.

### **Disruptive Children**

Children are encouraged to use the Library for homework and recreational reading and to attend programs. The Library staff realizes that the Library will be noisier at busy times and that children by nature can cause some commotion.

However, children (whether with a caregiver or not) who are deemed too disruptive by the Library staff will be advised that if they do not settle down they will be asked to leave the Library. Extreme or repetitive disruptive behavior, in the sole judgment of the Library staff, may result in immediate expulsion from the Library.

A disruptive child who needs to contact an acceptable caregiver may do so, or may ask the Library staff to do so, and then may wait in the Library until the acceptable caregiver arrives.