

PARENTS:

Would you leave your child alone in a shopping mall to play or read?

Please remember that the library, although a fun and entertaining place to be, is a busy public facility, and all public places do present hazards for unsupervised children.

Unattended Children Policy

Mount Clemens Public Library encourages frequent visits by children and their families. However, the Library staff cannot provide child care or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians and caregivers, not Library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the Library. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children.

Accordingly, parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior and supervision of minor children (ages 17 and younger) at all times in the Library and on Library grounds.

Children, like all library users, are required to respect Library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library.

Children ages 10 and younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver (age 18 or above) at all times and in all areas of the Library and its property except when participating in a Library-sponsored program such as Story Hour.

Older children and adolescents who come to the Library without a parent, guardian or caregiver are always welcome for appropriate use of the Library, such as homework, research or reading. Vandalism, loitering and/or loud/disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will serve as grounds for removal from Library property and may result in suspension of library privileges.

Parents, guardians and caregivers should be aware of Library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children. In the event that a minor 17 or younger remains in the Library after Library hours and no one can be contacted to provide transportation, the Staff Member in Charge will call the Macomb County Sheriff's Department for assistance. *Staff will not transport children home or to any other destination under any circumstances.*

In cooperation with the Superintendent's Office of Mount Clemens Community Schools, students at Mount Clemens High School and Mount Clemens Middle School who come to the Library after dismissal will be required to have appropriate school identification as well as a pass from the principal's office of their school. *Parents, guardians and caregivers must understand that the Library is **not** a place for students to wait for rides or simply to "hang out."*

Finally, Mount Clemens Public Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents, guardians and caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities.

It is not the intention of Mount Clemens Public library to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasonable response prepared if necessary. The Library respects the privacy of all patrons and will intervene only when, in the opinion of Library staff, the safety and well-being of a child appears to be threatened.

This policy will be enforced with reasonable discretion and in a fair and non-discriminatory fashion.

Adopted by Mount Clemens Public Library Board of Trustees, July 26, 2004. Revised on July 13, 2005.



Mount Clemens Public Library
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