

Children in the Library

Medicine Spring Library welcomes children to use the library and its resources. We strive to make libraries enjoyable for children and to help them develop a lifelong love of reading, books and libraries. In order to maintain a safe, enjoyable, and peaceful atmosphere for all library users, we ask your cooperation with the following policy.

Medicine Spring Library has developed the following guidelines for the safety and protection of children using the Library.

1. Children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended in the library – they must be accompanied by a parent or supervised by someone at least 14 years of age. The designated caregiver must stay with children at all times.
2. Children aged 9 and older may be left unattended in the library for a reasonable amount of time, generally not to exceed 1 to 2 hours. (At staff discretion, special consideration might be made for children involved in extensive research projects.)
3. The library is not to be used as a latchkey/babysitting site at any time, but especially not after-school or during school district half days.
4. Children in the library need to know how to contact a parent/guardian and need to have change available for payphones. They should also be aware of the library's closing time.
5. Children under the age of 6 are not allowed on the computers.

STAFF WILL NOTIFY PARENTS OF THIS POLICY WHEN CHILDREN ARE LEFT UNATTENDED REPEATEDLY AND/OR FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. (IF NECESSARY, THE POLICE OR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WILL BE CONTACTED.)

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, NOT LIBRARY STAFF, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN VISITING THE LIBRARY.

CHILDREN WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE LIBRARY PREMISES IF PROPER BEHAVIOR IS NOT MAINTAINED. FOR REPEATED OR EXTREME BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS, CHILDREN MAY BE BANNED FROM THE LIBRARY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LIBRARIAN. PARENTS MUST REALIZE THAT, EVEN WHEN NOT PRESENT, THEY ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILD'S BEHAVIOR.

In cooperation with the Browning Public Schools, the library will observe the rule that students will need permission from school authorities to be allowed to remain in the library during regular school hours. If a student is in the library without permission, the Truancy Department of Browning Public Schools must be contacted immediately; they will dispatch an officer, who will take the appropriate action.