

Safe Child Policy

The Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library is dedicated to providing a warm, welcoming, exciting, and safe environment for people of all ages. It is for the safety of each child that the library has adopted this Safe Child Policy.

The safety of children left alone in the library is a serious concern of the library staff. The staff, however, has many duties to perform in order to serve all the residents of Kimberly and Little Chute. Library staff cannot monitor the behavior and safety of children using the library. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with the library staff.

Therefore, the following rules have been established:

1. Children under the age of 11, who are using the library's resources or who are participating in a library program, shall at all times be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult. A responsible adult is defined as a parent, guardian, teacher, or assigned caregiver 16 years or older, who must remain with the child in the library for the duration of the visit.
2. Children 11 years and older may use the library unattended for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to follow the library's **Rules of Conduct**. Any child old enough to use the library unattended must have the telephone numbers of a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult, who may be contacted to pick up the child in case of a health emergency, or other special circumstances.
3. Children who do not adhere to the library's **Rules of Conduct** will be subject to the terms set forth in the library's **Security Policy**.
4. Parents are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their child's behavior. The library cannot and will not assume responsibility for any child, unattended or otherwise, either while he/she is in the building or after he/she has exited the premises.
5. Parents must be aware of the library's hours and must arrange to pick up their children by closing time. If an unattended child is still in the library at closing time, the library staff will act according to the following guidelines:
 - a. Library personnel will not transport or escort the child to any location off the premises under any circumstances.
 - b. Every reasonable effort will be made by the staff to assist the child in contacting an appropriate adult 15 minutes prior to closing.

- c. If no responsible adult arrives by closing, the library will contact the Police Department to come and pick up the child.
 - d. Children under the age of 16 will not be left on library property unattended after library hours. The Police Department will be contacted to protect the interests of the child.
6. Violation of the **Safe Child Policy** may result in suspension of library privileges for the family.