

NEUSE REGIONAL LIBRARY

SAFE CHILD POLICY

POLICY #2009-10

I. Introduction

The Neuse Regional Library Board has adopted the following Safe Child Policy to provide pleasant and safe environments for every child who visits the Neuse Regional Library System.

In its role as a community facility, the library system welcomes children of all ages. In order to ensure their safety and well-being, certain guidelines must be followed. These guidelines are based upon the premise that library personnel cannot replace the parent or responsible party as the primary protector of the child's safety while a child uses library services or attends programs within the library buildings or on library grounds. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18) while the minors are on library property regardless of whether they accompany the minor to the Library.

The library staff encourages children to develop a love of reading and learning, but the library staff is not responsible for care and supervision of children or accountable for accidents or other emergencies that may take place in a public building.

II. Rules Governing Child Safety

- A. During their entire stay in the Library, children 8 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver at least 16 years of age who acknowledges responsibility for the child during that child's entire stay at the Library.
- B. Children ages 9 to 11 need not be in the immediate presence of a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver provided they abide by all aspects of the Disruptive Behavior Policy, but the parent, legal guardian, or caregiver at least 16 years of age should remain in the library building during the entire stay.
- C. Children 11 years of age or younger should not be dropped off at the Library.
- D. Children 11 years of age or younger are prohibited from entering the adult area unless accompanied at all times by a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver at least 16 years of age.
- E. Arrangements should be made to pick up all children under age 16 before library closing time. If a child has not been picked up by closing time, a Reference staff and at least one other staff member at the Headquarters Library or branch staff at other facilities will remain with the child and attempt to contact the parent or legal guardian. If contact cannot be made within 15 minutes after closing time, library staff will contact the police, and the child will be placed in their custody.
- F. If children of any age violate the rules of conduct in the Library, they may be asked to leave the premises according to the Neuse Regional Library Disruptive Behavior Policy.