

Elkhart Lake Public Library- Safe Child Policy

Philosophy Behind Our Safe Child Policy

The Elkhart Lake Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming educational and safe environment for patrons of all ages.

Our Library staff is here to serve you and has many duties to perform in order to help all of our patrons the best way possible. As a result, they cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of your children. Staff cannot assume the responsibility of a child's care when they use the Library.

The Library is a public place. Anyone may enter and use the facilities. Children left alone in the building can be vulnerable and at risk, older children left on their own for extended periods may become bored and disruptive. An emergency could dictate the evacuation of the building or early closing time. We are primarily concerned with child's safety and feel this policy better assures his or her well-being. Therefore, the behavior and welfare of children in the library are the responsibility of the parents or guardian.

Safe Child guidelines:

1. Children under the age of 7 must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver (12 or older). If a child under the age of 7 is found to be unattended or is involved in inappropriate or disruptive behavior, library employees will try to find the parent or caregiver and explain the library's policy. If the parent or caregiver can't be found the police may be called.
2. Children, older than 7, are welcome to use the library appropriately on their own. Their parents are still responsible for the actions of their children. Children of this age range who use inappropriate or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the library.
3. Parents, guardians and caregivers should be aware of the Library hours and make suitable arrangement to meet and/or transport their children by at least 15 minutes prior to closing. In the event that a minor child is not picked up by closing, Library personnel may notify the police to assume custody of the child.
4. When children attend library programs where adult supervision is not required, a parent or caregiver is expected to pick up their children as soon as the program ends.

Other Programs for Children

The Elkhart Lake Public Schools offers daycare for ages 12 and younger from 6am to 6pm on school days for a minimum cost.

Adopted Library Board of Trustees

October 14, 2004

May 12, 2007 Revised

Revised August 8, 2014 Name of policy and caregiver age