

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

The following child safety policy is intended to ensure an environment that is safe and comfortable for all patrons, and affirm parents' responsibility for their children's safety. Parents and caregivers must be advised that libraries are public places. In libraries, as in all public places, "stranger danger" is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.

1. Children age 6 and under must be continuously supervised (within sight) by a parent/responsible caregiver age 16 or over, unless the child is participating in a supervised MCPL activity.
2. Children ages 7 through 10 years of age must have a parent/responsible caregiver over age 16 in the in the building.
3. Children who are over the age of 11 years of age and older may use the library independently, subject to building use policies. Parents/caregivers remain responsible for their children even when they are not present in the building.
4. Children with suspected communicable diseases will be asked to leave the MCPL premises/property.
5. Police and/or Child Protective Services will be contacted immediately when unattended minors who are unable to get home by themselves are left on the MCPL premises/property at closing. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home.
6. The library believes that the Internet should be available to children. Filtering software is used however, filters are not foolproof. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the necessary supervision to ensure that their child uses the Internet in an appropriate and safe manner.