

# Safety of Children in the Library

10/17/2017 | Revision 03

## General

The Maroa Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver age 16 or older. As with any patron, a child's behavior is unacceptable if it disrupts the normal use of the Library by other patrons or interferes with the staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties. Library staff and volunteers are not responsible for supervising children.

This policy is intended to inform the public and to guide Library staff and volunteers when they are confronted by children who are misbehaving or who are unattended. In circumstances addressed by this policy, the Library staff or volunteer on duty will follow the guidance provided herein and will exercise sound judgment considering all relevant facts. Library staff and volunteers will not physically prevent a child from leaving the Library, assume responsibility for a child or accompany an unrelated child off Library premises.

Children under age 8 must have a caregiver, age 16 or over, present in the Library. Children 8 - 12 may use the Library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity provided that the Library staff or volunteer on duty has been informed of how to contact the child's parent or caregiver. Library staff and volunteers on duty who observe unacceptable behavior will inform the child and caregiver, if present, of this policy. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave the Library. If the child is unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver, the staff or volunteer will follow the policy for unattended children.

## Unattended Children

If a child under the age of 8 is in the Library without a parent or caregiver, Library staff or volunteer on duty will:

1. Attempt to comfort the child, if necessary.
2. Locate the parent or caregiver in the Library and explain the Child Safety Policy
3. Make reasonable efforts to contact the parent/caregiver to pick up the child. Inform the Director or, in the Director's absence, a library employee who will then call the Maroa Police Department to pick up the child if the caregiver cannot be located or refuses to pick up the child at closing.

## Computer Services

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult in the computer area.

## Adults in the Children's Area

To provide an appropriate and safe atmosphere for children, adults (17 and over) who are not accompanied by children are to use the Children's Library section only for the purposes of retrieving materials, speaking with Library staff.

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# Maroa Public Library District

305 E. Garfield St., Maroa, IL 61756 | 217.794.5111 | maroalibrary@gmail.com

