

Child Safety Policy

The Waco-McLennan County Library welcomes children to our facilities and encourages them and their parents to make use of the library's materials, services and programs. We strive to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages; however, the library is not a childcare provider.

Parents, guardians or caretakers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of children under their supervision. Library staff members are not permitted to take on that responsibility.

- Children younger than 12 years of age may not be left unattended in the library. They must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or a caretaker, 16 years of age or older.
- If a child under the age of 12 is at the library without the proper supervision, library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent, guardian or caretaker. If staff is unable to contact a responsible person, or if the responsible person contacted does not arrive promptly to take supervision of the child, staff will contact the Waco Police Department.
- Children 12 and older may be left unattended if they work quietly and follow library rules. Such children must have some form of identification and parent/guardian contact information with them. Disruptive children will be asked to leave the library and parents may be contacted. If a problem arises and staff is unable to contact the parent, guardian or caretaker the Waco Police Department may be called.
- If any child under the age of 12 is left unattended at closing time or in the event of an emergency situation, library staff will call the Waco Police Department. Library staff members are not permitted to transport children in personal vehicles under any circumstances.

The Library Director is given the authority to establish such guidelines and procedures as may be necessary to insure fair and equitable service within the constraints of budget and staffing. Such rules and procedures shall be posted on the Library's website.

Approved by the Waco-McLennan County Library Commission: July 26, 2006
Amended and approved: January 27, 2016