

Safe Child Policy

The Library Board and staff of the Mooresville Public Library encourage children to come to the Library and explore all the resources available to them. However, the Library staff is also concerned about the welfare and safety of children in the library. Staff cannot assume the responsibility of *unattended, unsupervised, or unaccompanied* children when they are in the library. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be approached by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or become lost or injured. We are primarily concerned with *children's* safety, and we believe that our policy helps assure their well-being.

- The Mooresville Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left at library prior to opening.
- All children, ages 8 and younger, must be continuously supervised (within sight) by an adult or responsible caregiver, age 16 or over, unless the child is participating in a supervised library activity. Parents/ caregivers must remain in the building during library programs and pick children up on time at the conclusion of the program. Parents/caregivers may not leave young children unattended in the children's department while using other areas of the library.
- All children, ages 9-12, must have a parent/caregiver, age 16 or over, in the building. This includes children participating in a library programs. Parents/ caregivers must remain in the building during library programs and pick children up on time at the conclusion of the program.
- Children who are 13 years of age and older may use the library independently, subject to the rules and policies concerning library behavior. Caregivers/parents remain responsible for their children even when the parent is not present in the building.
- The Mooresville Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left at the library at closing time. Children will be permitted to call home prior to closing. A parent/caregiver must pick up children within 15 minutes of closing or the Mooresville Police Department will be notified. Two library staff members will remain with children until the police arrive. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home.

(Amended February 7, 2005)