

# ...CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is using its services and facilities. The responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children rests with the parent or caregiver, whether in the library or on library premises.

**A caregiver must be at least 16 years of age.**

Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults.

**Children through the age of 4 must always have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity.**

Parents or caregivers may not leave their young children unattended while using other areas of the library.

**Children, ages 5-9, may use the library as long as their parent/caregiver is in the building.**

If the child's conduct becomes unacceptable, they will have to stay with their parent/caregiver throughout the remainder of the visit.

**Children, ages 10-12, may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate for their level of maturity.**

**Children may not spend extended periods of time in the library.** Any child, regardless of age, may become restless during prolonged visits. Unattended children who are not using the library appropriately or who require excessive staff supervision will be asked to call their parents for pickup. If no parent can be contacted, library staff will either allow the child to remain at the library under close supervision until a parent can be contacted, or contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department, depending on the severity of the situation.

**The library is not responsible for children outside the building who await transportation or who are socializing.** Children not picked up by 15 minutes before closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent. Children, ages 12 and under, who have not been picked up at closing will be left in the care of the Mount Pleasant Police Department, which is located across the street from the library. Under no circumstances will staff transport children or accompany them home.