

# Child Safety Policy

The New Port Richey Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for members of all ages. Because the library is a public place, children's safety cannot be guaranteed. Appropriate supervision provided by parents, guardians and responsible caregivers will assist in creating a pleasant and safe environment for library customers of all ages. The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents, legal guardians, teachers, custodians or caregivers not fulfilling their responsibilities. *Local law enforcement will be notified to assume responsibility in the case of an unattended child.*

To create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where all can enjoy the Library, parents, guardians and caregivers are expected to observe the following:

**Supervise your child in and on library property.** The conduct, safety and supervision of children are the responsibility of parents, guardians and designated caregivers. Staff is not responsible for supervising individual children. A responsible caregiver should accompany and visually monitor children younger than age 11. *If a child younger than age 11 appears to be without supervision and a library staff cannot locate a responsible caregiver within 15 minutes, local law enforcement will be notified to assure the child's safety.*

**Be sure your child observes the Library's Code of Conduct.** Parents, guardians and designated caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children. If your child is disruptive or loud, please take them outside until the behavior is remedied. Members of all ages are subject to the same Code of Conduct and consequences for not following it.

**Be sure your child, age 11 or older, knows how to contact you if in the Library without adult supervision.** Occasionally the library may have to close early, or library staff may ask children who violate the Code of Conduct to leave the Library. Your child needs to know where to go or whom to contact in such a situation. In the case of an emergency when a parent or guardian is not with the child, staff will contact 911 and then the parent or guardian.

**Remember the Library's closing times.** Once the Library is closed, children cannot wait inside the building and staff is unavailable to stay with children. *If a child's transportation has not arrived by closing time, local law enforcement will be notified to assume responsibility for the child.*