

**Denver Public Library
Young Patron Behavior and Safety Policy**

The Denver Public Library welcomes children of all ages to the library. However, all patrons must abide by the library rules of behavior in order for the library to be a safe space that can be enjoyed by all ages for work and leisure activities.

Library staff cannot be expected to provide child care services while attending to the daily tasks of running the library. Therefore, parents and caregivers must be responsible for their child's behavior while visiting the library either attended or unattended.

Unattended Children 7 years old and older:

Children 7 years old and over may visit the library unattended as long as they follow the library's behavior expectations as stated in the Library's Behavior Policy and parents remain responsible for their child's behavior.

If behavior expectations are not being followed by the unattended child:

- Child will be given a warning by a staff member
- AFTER 3 WARNINGS, the child will be asked to leave the library for the day.

The child will be allowed to come back the next day, however if the disruptive behavior continues or becomes persistent, the library staff will call the child's parent/guardian to discuss the situation. Persistent behavior issues may result in a 30 or 60 day ban from the library.

Unattended Children Under 7 years old:

For safety reasons, children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult or a responsible sibling or caregiver who is over the age of 10 and remains with the young child at all times while visiting the library.

In the event that a child under the age of 7 is unattended at the library, the staff will call the parent or guardian on the phone and ask them to immediately come and pick the child up or make arrangements to have a responsible caregiver come stay with them while at the library. If a parent or guardian cannot be

reached or refuses to come, the staff will call the Law Enforcement Center and have the police handle the situation.

Under no circumstances will a library staff member take the child home in their vehicle or leave during work hours to walk a child home.

Computer Usage:

The library has designated the area under the loft as a children's computer area. In addition, an overflow area in the adult computer section can be used by children at the discretion of library staff.

The library does not limit computer time for young patrons, however, if a child has been on for over an hour, they may be asked by a staff member to get off a computer to allow others that are waiting to use it.

Library staff cannot be responsible for monitoring the online activity of unattended children using the library computers. Parents are responsible and need to be aware of their child's online activity at the library.

If a minor is displaying content on their computer screen that staff feels is inappropriate, the child will be removed from the computer and asked to leave the library for the rest of the day. If the child continues this behavior it will result in loss of computer privileges at the library for a period to be determined by the parent and staff.

Parents will be responsible for any theft or damage to computer equipment done by their child.

Candy, food, and drinks, other than a covered water bottle, is not allowed at the computer stations.

Children Left Unattended at Closing

Library staff will alert unattended children ten minutes before the library will be closing to allow time for them to arrange a ride home if needed.

Children may use the library telephone to call a parent or guardian for a ride

Responsible children who may need to wait a few minutes for a parent to pick them up can wait in the locked entry way after closing at the discretion of the library staff person on duty.

If a child left alone at closing is unsure where to go, frightened, or under the age of 7, staff will remain with the child and attempt to reach a parent or guardian to pick them up immediately. If they can not be reached or cannot pick them up in a timely manner, the staff will call the Law Enforcement Center and release the child to the care of the police.

Program Attendance:

Children are expected to follow the library's Behavior Policy while attending programs.

Children under the age of 7 must be accompanied to programs by an adult or a responsible sibling or caregiver over the age of 10. Caregivers must stay with the young child during the program

Children that become disruptive to others during a program be given a warning. If the disruptive behavior continues they will be removed from the program.

Library Cards:

Children 14 years of age or older can obtain a library card without an adult present.

Children under the age of 14 must have an adult or guardian present when applying for a library card. An adult must sign the card application.

Once a child under the age of 14 has a library card signed by an adult, they can check out books without a parent/guardian present.

This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Denver Library Board of Trustees on July 8, 2024