



Information for Parents

When Your Child Visits the Library...

The public library offers your child excitement, knowledge and the joy of discovery! Library visits are an important part of a child's creative and intellectual growth. Our staff wants your child's visit to be a rewarding and positive experience that encourages a love of reading for pleasure and knowledge for a lifetime. A child visiting our libraries receives the same welcome, assistance and respect as any other valued patron.

Your Role in Transportation...

Library hours are posted at the entrance to each building and on the library web site. Parents are requested to make sure their children are picked up before closing time.

At closing, if a child who is 17 years old or younger is left unattended in the library and a guardian cannot be contacted or does not arrive within 30 minutes, law enforcement officials will be contacted. Two staff members will stay with the child until law enforcement arrives.

Your Role in Supervision...

It is tempting to believe the library is a haven that your child can visit without worrying about safety. A library is a public building, open to all. Please use the same precautions for insuring your child's safety that you would in any other public location.

Children under the age of 13 should not be left unattended in the library. We ask that the responsible party remain within sight of the child. If the child is attending a story time or program, the responsible party should remain in the building. If a child is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library alone.

While our staff is concerned about the well-being of our patrons, we cannot be responsible for keeping your child safe from harm. We must assume that all library users are able to take care of themselves or are under the supervision of a responsible individual, such as a parent, guardian or babysitter.

Please consider the rights of all library users. A small child left on his own often runs, climbs and expresses himself more loudly than other patrons appreciate. Please help us maintain an environment that allows for everyone's enjoyment by keeping your young child with you in the library.

Montgomery County Memorial Library System Minor Child Policy

Montgomery County Memorial Library System welcomes children of all ages. In order to provide a pleasant and secure environment for children who visit the Library, staff require the cooperation of parents, caregivers and guardians.

A **CHILD** is an individual 12 years of age and younger.

A **YOUNG ADULT** is an individual 13 -17 years old.

A **PARENT, CAREGIVER or GUARDIAN** is an adult 18 years of age or older.

1. Children are the responsibility of parents, caregivers or guardians at all times when on library premises.
2. The Library has neither the staff nor legal authority to supervise children in the Library.
3. The County is not responsible for the choice of library materials for children's use. The responsibility for the choice of library materials rests with their parents or legal guardians.
4. Children under 13 must have a parent, caregiver or guardian in the immediate vicinity of and in visual contact with the child. If a child is found inside the Library without a parent, caregiver or guardian they will be considered unattended.
5. Young adults may be inside the Library building without a parent, caregiver or guardian but may not supervise a child.
6. Children and Young Adults must be picked up by library closing time.
7. At closing time, if a child or young adult has not been picked up, the library may ask the authorities to take the child or young adult into custody for their own protection.