

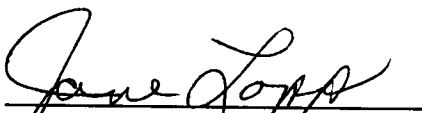
Safety of Children in the Library

Flathead County Library welcomes children of all ages to attend programs and use the library and its resources to the fullest. The Library also strives to provide a safe environment but safety cannot be guaranteed. The Flathead County Library staff is committed to helping children with activities related to Library resources. However, the Library staff cannot assume responsibility for acting as child care providers or disciplinarians. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same rules of conduct expected of adults. Please refer to Rules of Conduct in the Flathead County Library Policy Manual (2010).

- Parents, guardians and assigned chaperones are responsible for their children while in any Flathead County Library.
- Children under the age of 9 should not be left unsupervised anywhere on the library premises. If a parent or guardian cannot be located, Children and Family Services (751-5950 or 1-866-820-5437) will be contacted. The police or 911 may be contacted if the child appears to be a danger to himself or herself or others.
- Children 9 years of age or older who come to the library without a parent or guardian are welcome for appropriate use of the library. Vandalism and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior for all library customers is defined as any noisy or violent action inappropriate to a business setting, i.e. running, fighting, throwing, loud or abusive talking, or any other activities that interfere with library use. Anyone engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave.
- Organized groups of children under the age of eighteen, such as school classes, day care groups, and tours, must be supervised at all times while in the library.
- Children of all ages must be picked up by library closing time. Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent. Children who have not been picked up after closing time will be left in the care of the police. Under no circumstances will a library staff member transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Adopted: 2-23-06

Reaffirmed: 7-09-09



Jane Lopp, Vice-chair

Flathead County Library System Board of Trustees