

Colo Library Behavior and Supervision Policy

Colo Public Library welcomes children of all ages. The public library is a fun place to learn and explore. It is a place where appropriate public behavior is required and supervision by staff is not guaranteed. Parents or guardians are responsible for their child's behavior while the child is in the library or on the premises. Children are expected to follow the Colo Library's Conduct Policy. Children aged eight and under, or otherwise unable to supervise themselves, must be supervised by a responsible person at all times while visiting the library. This person is responsible for the safety, behavior, and well-being of the child. A responsible person is a child's parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. Responsible persons must be age 11 or older.

Children birth thru Preschool

- Young children visiting the library must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. This responsible person must remain in the library and within sight of the child at all times.
- Young children attending library programs must have a responsible person in the library available to assist them at all times.

School Age Children

- School age children, ages 5 to 8, or a child unable to supervise themselves, must be supervised when visiting the library, and within sight of a responsible person at all times.
- School age children of any age attending a library program will be expected to:
 - Be respectful of other children, staff and library property
 - Be kind, patient, and calm
 - Listen to directions and other children when it is their turn to talk
 - Keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves
 - Work quietly and not disturb others
 - Follow the Colo Library Conduct Policy
- If a school age child of any age is not able to follow the above guidelines, supervision by a responsible person will be required.

Disruptive Child – behavior that interferes with library programming, patron use, or the staff's ability to conduct library duties.

Staff Procedure

1. The staff member will ask the child to correct their behavior.
2. Child may be asked to sit quietly.
3. If the disruptive behavior continues, a staff member will inform the responsible person parent, guardian, or caregiver, explaining that the child is being disruptive and inform them of the library policy stated here and in the Colo Library Conduct Policy.
4. If behavior continues, the responsible party will be asked to remove the child from the library. The duration of the removal is at the discretion of the librarian.
5. Staff will avoid evicting a child from the library who is not capable of getting to a safe place independently.
6. If the child is not removed from the library, as behaviors continue, Story County Sheriff's Department may be called.

Unattended Child - typically age 8 or younger not supervised by an adult or attending a library program. Library employees cannot assume the role of responsible caregiver.

1. Distraught children may be comforted by the staff.
2. Staff may use library resources to contact the child's parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. The responsible person will be asked to join the child at the library or to collect them from the library.
3. The child will be encouraged to remain at the library until collected.
4. Staff may refuse to release the child to a non-guardian.
5. Staff may contact the Story County Sheriff's Department if that is deemed appropriate.
6. Only in the event of an emergency will a staff member take a child out of the library.

Revised 11/22/2021