

CHILDRENS SERVICES & CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Purpose:

The Rabun County Public Library's mission is to serve the informational, recreational, and cultural reading interests of children from infancy through early adolescence. The foundations for the children's services of Rabun County Public Library are carefully selected materials, specially trained personnel, and an inviting facility.

Policy:

Service policies established by the Library Board of Trustees, where relevant, shall apply to the children's library. Responsibility for oversight of the children's library rests with the Library Manager; conducting the services and programs in the children's library may be delegated to a Children's Librarian, Youth Services Coordinator, and other staff members.

Procedures:

The Rabun County Public Library encourages parents and children to visit and enjoy the library; however, the library has limited staff members to assist young patrons. To promote positive and safe visits, the following guidelines should be observed:

- Children younger than age 8 may not be left alone for library visits.
- Children who visit the library without parents are expected to follow instructions given by staff members, and to behave appropriately for the library atmosphere. Running, yelling, and other disruptive behaviors are unacceptable.

The library staff will make reasonable efforts to ensure the well-being and safety of young visitors while they are inside the building. The staff has no authority to require children to remain inside; therefore, the library cannot assure the safety of children once they have left the building. The library cannot accept responsibility for children or adolescents left unattended. The Library Manager or Circulation Supervisor is authorized to call police to report persistent abuse of library regulations regarding unattended children.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN:

Children under age eight (8) shall not be left at the library without adult supervision. If a parent persists in leaving under-aged children unattended in the library, the staff is authorized to call the police.

Upon closing of the library, a staff member shall notify the proper authorities when juveniles under the age of 14 are left unattended on the library premises. Under no circumstances shall a library employee offer to take the child home or otherwise remove the child from library premises.