

## **CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY**

The Fossil Ridge Public Library encourages and welcomes children at all times to use its facilities and services. The staff of the library is committed to help children with activities related to the Library.

Parents need to consider the safety and well-being of their children, the needs of other library patrons, and are responsible for the behavior of their children at all times while they are in the Library.

It is the parent's responsibility to monitor their child while on library property or participating in any event hosted by the Fossil Ridge Library, online activities, and their access to materials in the library.

The library reserves the right to suspend library privileges for violations of library policy. Whenever advisable, the library will notify the parent of incidents involving their child with the Parent Notification Letter or a phone call.

### **GUIDELINES:**

Children under the age of nine (9) must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. Adults using the library and its services (on the computer, photocopier, attending a meeting, etc.) must be close enough to provide direct supervision and control of their children's' behavior.

An adult must remain in the library during library programs attended by their children under the age of nine (9).

Children over the age of nine (9) may use the Library unattended by an adult, subject to other library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct and demeanor and if they are mature enough to stay alone.

When the safety of any child is in doubt or the parent or guardian cannot be located, library staff is authorized to call the police.

In the event a young person is still at the library 10 minutes after the library closes to the public and attempts to reach the parents or guardian have failed, the police will be called to pick up the young person. Two assigned staff members will stay with the child but in no instance will staff take young people home.

**Notification Letter**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

The Fossil Ridge Public Library District has recently experienced an incident involving your child, \_\_\_\_\_, while they were on Library grounds.

**INCIDENT:**

A copy of the Library's policy on Children in the Library is enclosed for your attention. We ask that you review this policy and make every effort to follow it.

We do not wish to suspend Library privileges for anyone but the safety of children, as well as the proper operation of the Library are our first responsibilities.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or its enforcement, or the Incident involving your child, please call the library at 815-458-2187.

Thank you,

Adopted Sept. 1999, Reviewed Jan. 2003, Reviewed April 2005, Revised Sept. 2008, Reviewed August 2013, Revised March 2016, Reviewed Feb. 2018