

CARTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY POLICY



GOAL

The Carter County Public Library encourages all children to visit the library to enjoy the library resources. These resources are available for children to meet their informational, recreational and educational needs. The library staff strive to provide a safe and appropriate environment for all of its patrons. However, our library is a public building and like any public place may be unsafe for a child who is left unattended even for brief periods. Our library is not designed, nor is our staff licensed to provide childcare. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the accompanying adult to ensure the safety and appropriate behavior of their children in the library.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

For purposes of this policy, supervised children shall be defined as library patrons under the age of eight. The safety, responsibility and behavior of all children lies solely with the parent, guardian, teacher or chaperone of that child **and not with the library staff**. If the parent or responsible party does not take appropriate action for a child that is misbehaving, the library staff may take action. Disruptive children will be required to leave the library after receiving one warning from the library staff.

Children ages 8 and above are welcome to enjoy the library without supervision. Parents and library staff must educate these children about proper behavior and the libraries' policies.

The library staff assumes no responsibility for minors eight years of age or older who are left unattended during or after library hours.

CHILDREN'S USE OF THE LIBRARY

Children have access to all library materials and services. Restricting access to library materials and services to children is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Books, play items and craft materials must be returned to the appropriate shelf or container at the end of their visit. If any child breaks anything belonging to the library or tears anything up the parent will be liable and may have to pay for such items.

The children or parent/caregiver cannot bring food, gum, candy and drinks into the library. All cellphones must be put on silent/vibrate and necessary phone conversations must be taken outside the building.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call 573-323-4315.