



Safe Child Policy

The Wauwatosa Public Library (WPL) welcomes children to its facilities and services. Caregivers should remember that the WPL is a public building, open to all and must use the same precautions for ensuring the safety of each child as one would in any other public location. The responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children using WPL rests with their caregivers and not with WPL personnel. A caregiver is defined in this policy as a parent, legal guardian, or responsible person fourteen years of age or older who provides direct care for an infant or young child (ages 0-9).

Caregiver responsibilities:

- For children ages five and under, caregivers should remain closely with them while in the WPL, the sole exception being if their children are attending an independent (ages 3-5) program.
- For children ages six to nine, caregivers must accompany and remain within the same area as their children while in the WPL.
- Responsible children ages ten years and older may use the WPL unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity.
- For all children (ages 3-9) attending independent WPL program, caregivers must remain in WPL for the duration of the program and pick the children up at the doors of the program upon its completion.
- Staff may, as needed:
 - discuss this policy with caregivers whose children need additional supervision;
 - contact authorities such as the Wauwatosa Police Department to ensure the safety unattended children.

Behavior of Children under 18 in the Library:

- All patrons must follow the WPL Code of Conduct, including children under 18. Children and caregivers will be informed of inappropriate behavior and asked to stop.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, WPL staff will follow appropriate steps as indicated in the WPL Code of Conduct.

Adults in the Children's Library:

- Out of concern for the safety of young patrons, adults not accompanying children or actively utilizing Children's Library resources will be asked to relocate to another area of WPL.

Children at the Library after closing:

- Staff will make a reasonable effort to ensure that children leave the WPL safely at closing time. If a child is left at the WPL after closing, WPL staff may contact the Wauwatosa Police Department for assistance.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Wauwatosa Public Library on February 21, 2018.

Revised on January 18, 2023.