



Safe Child Policy

The Wauwatosa Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for patrons of all ages by setting policies to promote safety within the building. A caregiver is defined in this policy as a parent, legal guardian, or responsible person twelve years of age or older, who provides direct care for a young child.

Children attending the Library:

- Responsibility for the welfare and conduct of children using the Library ultimately rests with the caregiver. Staff members cannot and will not assume responsibility for children. A caregiver must supervise children under the age of eight at all times.
- Responsible children eight years of age and older may use the Library unattended.
- Staff may, as needed:
 - ask children disrupting normal Library activities to leave
 - notify caregivers whose children need additional supervision
 - contact authorities such as the Wauwatosa Police Department to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the Library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child

Children attending Library programs:

- Caregivers are required to remain in the Library when children under the age of eight attend a Library program.
- Upon completion of a Library program, caregivers are required to pick up their child at the doors of the program. Children under the age of eight will not be allowed to search for their caregivers in the library.

Adults in the Children's Area:

- The Library's children's area is specifically designed to meet the needs of children from birth through twelve years old. Adults not accompanying a child may only use the Children's area when using the resources specific to the Children's area.
- Children's Library restrooms are reserved for children and their caregivers, along with adults that need assistance from others

Children at the Library after closing:

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

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

Revised by the Board of Trustees of the Wauwatosa Public Library on January 18, 2023