

# Children's Policy

The Shelby County Public Library is a shared facility open to people of all ages. For the protection of children, parents should provide guidance to their children at all times while in the library. The following policy has been adopted by the Library Board of Trustees to insure that children will be properly supervised when in the library, library branch, the mobile library, or attending a program sponsored by the library.

The responsible adult who has transported children to the library premises or who has allowed or directed a child to the library premises shall be responsible for the safety of that child at all times. The library staff cannot assume responsibility for unattended children.

1. Children ages 8 and under must be with a parent or caregiver (age 14 or over) at all times while using the library. Those attending a library sponsored program may be dropped off at the starting time of the program but a responsible person must remain in the library and be present at the conclusion of the program to pick up the child.
2. Children ages 9-13 may use the library without parental supervision with limitations. A child without supervision may be asked to call a parent or caregiver at any time deemed necessary by staff. The parent or caregiver may be asked to come to the library to supervise the child. If a parent or caregiver has not arrived within a reasonable amount of time, the Shelbyville Police Department will be called.
3. Children ages 14 and over may use the library without parental supervision as long as appropriate behavior is maintained. Parents may be called at any time deemed necessary by library staff.
4. Children who accompany adults to a meeting in any of the meeting rooms are not exempt from the Children's Policy.
5. Caregivers responsible for groups of children of any age must remain with the group at all times and provide enough caregivers to maintain reasonable control of the group.
6. Parents must be aware of library hours. Children who are not picked up at library closing and are too young to make their way home will be given into the protective custody of the Shelbyville Police Department.
7. Any time a child age 18 or younger is injured in the library, a parent will be called to determine what action should be taken. If immediate medical attention is needed, 911 will be called and then the parent.

(Approved by the Library Board of Trustees April 2, 2001.)