

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the library, use its resources and services, and to attend library programs. EVPL staff are available to assist and support children. We hope that children will perceive our locations as warm, inviting, and fun places to be. However, responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or assigned caregiver, not with Library personnel. The Library cannot provide short- or long-term childcare.

The well-being and safety of young children left unattended is a serious concern. The Library is a public building and is open to all members of the community. Unattended children can become bored, restless, and potentially disruptive.

Understanding that children mature at different rates, the following guidelines are to ensure that children are safe and cared for while at EVPL:

- *Children age 9 and younger:* A parent, guardian, or assigned chaperone/childcare provider must accompany and remain within sight or physical reach of the child at all times. An assigned caregiver must be over the age of 14 and have emergency contact information.
- *Children age 10 and older:* Children in this range may use EVPL unattended, but must abide by all EVPL policies and procedures concerning behavior and conduct.
- *Children of any age who require supervision to be safe and/or not disruptive:* A child who falls into this category must be supervised at all times by a parent or responsible caregiver.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN IN PROGRAMS

A responsible caregiver over the age of 14 must accompany children under the age of eight during a library program and must remain with the child for the duration of the program. Children ages 8 to 10 may participate in a library program without a caregiver in the room, but the caregiver needs to remain on-site or provide contact information when signing the child into a program. These are minimum requirements for children and staff reserve the right to require caregiver accompaniment during programs.

ADULTS IN YOUTH DESIGNATED AREAS

Adult patrons may use the children's or teen area of the library only when accompanied by a child or teen using those areas. Unaccompanied adults who are retrieving materials for research or check out may not remain in the teen or children's areas to review materials, and should take them to other areas of the library to review. EVPL reserves the right to determine who can be in and remain in the children's and teen areas of the Library and unaccompanied adults may be asked to use other areas of the library.

