

Trussville Public Library CHILD SAFETY POLICY

General Information

Children are always welcome at the Trussville Public Library. We are glad your children are here. The Library staff strives to provide a safe and comfortable environment for people of all ages. Trussville Public Library encourages you to make visits to our Library a family affair. Bring your child to the Library to help choose books, use the computers, or attend a program. In this way, your child's visit to our Library will be a positive experience.

The Library staff is here to serve you. However, Library staff cannot assume the responsibility of a child's care. The behavior and welfare of children are the responsibility of the parents, guardians or caregivers accompanying the child to the Library and they must work with Library staff to provide a pleasant and safe environment for all patrons.

Our Library staff is pleased to help children use our facility for:

- 1. finding materials for school work and recreational reading.**
- 2. providing an environment that encourages study and intellectual curiosity.**
- 3. providing programs that inform and enrich.**

The safety of children left alone in the Library is a serious concern of our staff. Library facilities are not licensed or designated to provide basic child care needs and we are not a babysitting service. It is impossible for the Library staff to guarantee the safety of an unattended child. **The Library is a public building and is not safe for young children to be left alone.**

The Trussville Public Library Board of Trustees has established the following policy in order to maintain an environment of safety and to maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged:

Unattended Children

Children 7 years of age and younger shall at all times be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult (parent, guardian, other caregiver, age 16 years or older) while in the Library. Children of the above-cited age must be accompanied by an adult when in the restroom, entryway and children's area.

Children ages 8 – 10 must have a responsible adult present in the Library. Older children and adolescents who come to the Library without a parent, guardian or caregiver are welcome for appropriate use of the Library, such as homework or reading. Children 11 years of age and older may use the Library unattended provided they are able to maintain appropriate Library behavior.

Teachers, daycare providers, or other youth leaders may not leave groups of unattended students in the library, regardless of the age of the students.

Disruptive behavior that is unacceptable in the Library includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Running, chasing inside or on sidewalks and entryways adjoining the Library.**
- 2. Rollerblades, skates, skateboards, shoes with rollers**
- 3. Shouting, loud conversations, arguments, foul language.**
- 4. Throwing anything.**
- 5. Bullying or bothering patrons.**
- 6. Consuming food or drinks.**
- 7. Vandalizing Library property or facilities.**
- 8. Refusing to follow Library house rules.**

If necessary the Library reserves the right to summon the police.

Unattended Children at Closing Time

Unattended children must know how to contact a parent or guardian. Trussville Public Library does not have a public phone and Library staff are not responsible for calling parents.

Parents **must** pick up their children no later than **10 minutes before closing time.**

Parents, guardians and caregivers should be aware of the Library's hours and are expected to make advanced arrangements to pick up their children prior to closing.

If a child is unattended at the time of closing, an attempt to reach the parent or legal guardian shall be made. If the attempt to contact the parent or legal guardian fails, the Trussville Police Department shall be called to take responsibility for the child. Two Library staff members will remain with the child inside the Library entrance until law enforcement officials arrive. A note will be placed on the door notifying the parent or legal guardian that the child is in the care of local law enforcement officials. **Staff will not transport children home or to any other destination under any circumstances.**

Closings Due to Inclement Weather and Emergencies

The Trussville Public Library may close due to emergencies because of inclement weather, power outages, etc. If the Trussville City Schools close because of inclement weather, the Library will also close. No child may be sent to the Library if the schools close early due to emergencies. When the Library closes because of inclement weather or an emergency, and school is still in session, schools will be notified and an announcement that the Library is closed will be requested.

Trussville Public Library hopes that all children in our community will have the opportunity to develop a life-long love of reading by visiting our Library. Parents, guardians and care-givers are our partners in providing a safe environment for children.

Board approved: 11-17-08