

SAFE CHILD

The Jefferson-Madison Regional Library welcomes and encourages children of all ages to use its facilities and services.

While the Library strives to provide a safe environment, branches are public facilities open to all and the Library is not able to accept responsibility for the safety and supervision of children. The Library does not act *in loco parentis*, meaning staff do not take on the functions and legal responsibilities of a parent. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, well-being, and supervision of their children when using the library.

Children of different ages require different levels of supervision. In order to safely provide the best service, library staff requires parents to follow these guidelines for adequate supervision:

Age of Child	Supervision Responsibilities
9 or younger	Parent/caregiver must maintain visual contact and conversational distance with the child while in the library. If a child is attending a library program parents must remain in the building.
10 and older	Child may use the library unsupervised until closing.
12 and older	May act as caregiver for younger children until closing.

Just like with any user of the library, children must maintain proper behavior as described in Policy 4.232 (Conduct in JMRL). Staff is authorized to contact appropriate authorities if a situation appears to be dangerous or neglectful to a child, or if a parent/guardian or caregiver cannot be located or contacted within 30 minutes or if a child is suspected to be truant.

In addition, library employees and volunteers who work with children and youth (under age 18) should observe the two-person rule or the open-door policy as described in JMRL Staff Procedure 4.234. Library staff should never make physical contact with any patron without prior consent from the individual or their caretaker, unless that patron is exhibiting behaviors dangerous to themselves or others.

To best serve the needs of library users of different ages, the Library has areas for targeted age groups and asks patrons to comply with these age guidelines during times when the intended audiences are likely to use these areas