

Safe Child Policy

Fond du Lac Public Library

Board approved: September 15, 2022

Previous policy dated: August 20, 2016

The Fond du Lac Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and well-functioning environment for all ages. All patrons, regardless of age, are expected to adhere to the library's Appropriate Behavior Policy. For the safety and well-being of children up to the age of 16, the library has adopted the following:

1. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for any child.
2. Children under the age of 8 must be supervised by a responsible caregiver at all times while they are in the library.
Anyone, including siblings, under the age of 12 will not be considered a responsible caregiver.
3. Children ages 8 and older may be in the library unattended, provided that their behavior is not disruptive or inappropriate to other patrons or staff members.
4. In the event of an emergency or serious illness, emergency services will be contacted as well as the child's caregiver.
5. When the library is closing:
 - a. Every reasonable effort will be made by staff to assist the child in contacting an appropriate adult 15 minutes prior to closing.
 - b. Staff will not transport or escort the child to any location off premises under any circumstances.
 - c. If a child is not picked up 15 minutes after closing, library staff will contact the Fond du Lac Police Dept. to pick up the child.
6. Continued disregard for this **Safe Child Policy** may result in library privileges being suspended for the entire family.

Procedure for Inappropriate Behavior:

1. At the first instance of inappropriate behavior, staff will have a conversation with the child and will reference the Appropriate Behavior policy.
At the second instance of inappropriate behavior, consequences will be introduced if behavior continues. Staff will attempt to redirect behavior with an alternate activity.
If behavior is not corrected, staff will ask unattended children to leave for the remainder of the day.
2. If behavior continues to be inappropriate or disruptive during the next visit, staff will again ask them to leave.
3. If behavior continues to be inappropriate or disruptive, staff will refer to our **Appropriate Behavior and Expectations Policy**, which includes banning patrons for egregious behavior, with increasing amounts of time.