



SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

DOCUMENT #10.3.2

BOARD ADOPTED DATE: March 18, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 18, 2008

SUBJECT: SAFE CHILD POLICY

1. GENERAL

1.1 The Spokane Public Library encourages parents, guardians, and other caregivers to bring children to the Library whenever possible. Library staff have been trained to help children enjoy and derive benefit from the materials and services the Library offers, including programs designed to encourage a love of reading and lifelong learning in children of all ages. The safety of young children and the rights of other customers, however, requires that parents and/or guardians monitor the behavior of their children and correct behavior that is inappropriate. This bulletin outlines the Library's policy regarding the safety of children while in the Library, and the protection of rights of all customers, regardless of age.

1.2 This bulletin is divided into the following sections:

Section 1 - General
Section 2 - Statement of Policy
Section 3 - Implementation

2. POLICY

2.1 Library patrons, regardless of age, are required to comply with the Spokane Public Library Patron Rules of Conduct which are clearly posted at all branch locations and on the Library's Web site.

2.2 In order to maintain a safe, orderly, and proper environment for library use, parents, guardians, and/or other caregivers responsible for a child or children must be responsible for the conduct of children in their custody or control at all times while they are on Library premises.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the conduct of children in their custody or control at all times while they are on Library premises.

- 3.2 Preschool children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. During storytimes, adults are asked to remain in the building. In storytime groups, children up to age 4 MUST be accompanied by an adult.
- 3.3 Parents, guardians, and caregivers should be aware of library opening and closing times and make arrangements to meet and transport children who have been left unattended at the Library.
- 3.4 The Library is not responsible for children outside of its buildings who await transportation or who are socializing.
- 3.5 All children, young adults, and adults are expected to respect Library property and other Library customers. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will result in the individual(s) being asked to leave.
- 3.6 The Library staff shall have the responsibility of interpreting the Library Patron Rules of Conduct and making the final determination in requesting the removal of a child from the building as a result of behavioral difficulties.

Policy originally adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 24, 1998 and then revised on March 18, 2008.