



UNATTENDED AND DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN POLICY

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while they are in Desert Foothills Library. Desert Foothills Library staff is committed to help children with activities related to the Library. However, Library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility, to serve as baby-sitters, teachers, or disciplinarians. Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges. Whenever advisable, the Library will notify the parent of incidents involving an unattended or disruptive child.

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible adult, 16 years or older. When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the library is closing, library staff is authorized to call the local authorities and stay with the child until the local authorities arrive. Attempts will be made to reach parents, but in no instance will staff take young children home.

Children age 12 and older may use the Library unattended by an adult, subject to other Library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor. Though children age 12 to 15 may use the Library unattended they may not be left to supervise other youth while at the Library.

Disruptive behavior is any behavior on library premises that infringes on the rights of others using the library as referenced in the Patron Code of Conduct. To assure an environment conducive to reading and viewing and to promote an atmosphere in which lifelong learning and personal development can occur, disruptive children will not be allowed to interfere with library service to others. Library staff will approach disruptive children in the following manner:

- a. Give a verbal warning to the child indicating that such behavior is disruptive to other library users and is unacceptable
- b. If the disruptive behavior continues, approach the parent or guardian with the same warning. If the child is unattended, give the child a second warning
- c. If the disruptive behavior continues, request the parent or guardian to escort the child from the library premises. If the child is unattended, staff should use discretion in asking the child to leave taking into consideration the child's safety
- d. If the child's disruptive behavior continues and he or she refuses to leave the library premises, library staff will call the local authorities

Library staff will document any incidents involving unattended or disruptive children and inform the Executive or Assistant Director.

