

## Harriman Public Library Children Policy

### Children in the Library:

1. Children who use the Library should perceive the facilities as warm and inviting. Many programs are offered to make the Library attractive to children and to help them develop a love for books, reading and libraries. However, children left unattended for several hours when no specific library program is being offered may become bored and disruptive. Young children are not safe when left in the Library unattended. The staff cannot know if the children are leaving the building with parents or with strangers.
2. A policy that clearly specifies the responsibilities of parents and/or caregivers and the Library, and acceptable on-site behavior that will be consistently and equitably enforced to maintain comfort and safety, is in the best interest of children, the Library and the public.
3. Parents and guardians are responsible for their children's behavior, safety and welfare while their children are in the library or on library grounds, which includes their children's access to library materials and electronic resources. **Children ages twelve (12) and younger** should be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible party. Library staff is available to assist parents, guardians. And their children in the use of the library; however, Library staff cannot act "loco parentis" (in place of a parent) for children in the library.
4. **All children are expected to use the Library facilities in an appropriate manner.** Those guilty of inappropriate activities include: running, throwing, eating, loud or abusive talking, fighting, moving furniture, excessive socializing, or any other activities that disrupt the Library staff or patrons, or other children.
5. Children must be picked up before closing time. The Library closing hours are posted on the front door and inside the library. The Library staff makes every effort to inform parents of closing times. Any child left at the Library

after closing hours is at risk. For this reason, at the discretion of the staff, the City Police may be notified when a child is outside the Library at closing time.

- 6.** All Library staff members shall be aware of the above policies and implement them with the following procedures:
  - a. Publicize the policies by the use of signs in the Library.
  - b. Give out policy when library card is received and at beginning of programs in summer and fall.