

Child Safety Policy

Children are always welcome at the Palo Verde Valley District Library. We are glad your children are here. The Library staff strives to provide a safe and comfortable environment for people of all ages. The Palo Verde Valley District Library encourages visits to the Library be a family affair. Bring your child to the Library to help him or her choose books, use the computers, or attend a program. In this way, the child's visit to the Library will be a happy and positive experience. Parents, guardians and caregivers must also work with Library staff to provide a pleasant and safe environment for all patrons.

The Library staff is here to serve you. However, staff cannot assume the responsibility of a child's care. The behavior and welfare of children are the responsibility of the parents, guardians or caregivers accompanying the child/children to the Library. The safety of children left alone in the Library is a serious concern of the Library staff. Library facilities are not licensed or designated to provide basic child care needs and we are not a babysitting service. It is impossible for the Library staff to guarantee the safety of an unattended child. The Library is a public building and it is not safe for young children to be left alone. Children may become frightened or bored and they could disturb the enjoyment and work of others.

Unattended Children

No child under the age of 5 may be left at the library unattended or without the supervision of an adult 18 years of age or older. Children 6 and older must have the telephone number of their parent, guardian or other designated adult so that a responsible adult may be contacted, if necessary. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may serve as the grounds for removal of the child from Library property. Children ages 5-17 are limited to 2 hours a day in the library after school.

Disruptive behavior is unacceptable in the Library including, but is not limited to:

- Running, chasing.
- Shouting, loud conversation, arguments, foul language.
- Throwing books, magazines or toys.
- Bullying or bothering patrons.
- Consuming food.
- Vandalizing Library property or facilities.

For repeated or extreme behavior problems, children may be banned from the library for a period of time to be determined by the Library Director.

Older children and adolescents who come to the Library without a parent, guardian or caregiver are welcome for appropriate use of the Library, such as homework or reading. All children must maintain appropriate Library behavior. Teenagers are treated as adult users. However, they are still legally the responsibility of their parents and should have an emergency contact available.

Truancy

Children ages 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian during school hours. (We will require proof of document for legal guardianship). Children who are not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian will be considered truant and asked to leave the Library property. Library staff may ask for photo identification to be shown for proof of age.

Unattended Children at Closing Time

Parents or a legal guardian **must** pick up their children no later than 15 minutes before closing time. If a parent/legal guardian does not come before 15 minutes of closing, staff will contact the local authorities and ask the police to assume protection of the unattended child. Staff may leave after the police officer has picked up the child and assumed responsibility. Parents, guardians, and caregivers should be aware of the Library's hours and are expected to make advanced arrangements to pick up their children prior to closing.

Summer hours

Children 7 years of age and younger may not be left unattended in the Library and shall at all times be attended and supervised by a responsible adult. Children 8 - 12 are limited to 2 hours a day in the library

Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Library Director.

The Library hours are:

- Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed