Massena Public Library

Child Behavior and Safety Policy

The Library has a responsibility to provide a safe and comfortable environment for every patron who appropriately uses its services and facilities.

The Library board and staff are eager for children to use the library and welcome those who do so. Children's services are an important part of the Library's mission. In order for the Library to be a safe and welcoming place for all patrons the following policies must be followed:

1. Parents and caregivers are expected to be in close proximity to their young children while in the library. Parents and caregivers are solely responsible for the behavior of their children.

2. Library staff will not be expected to assume responsibility for unsupervised or inappropriately behaved children.

3. Children younger than twelve years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian while in the library.

4. Children over the age of twelve may be in the library unaccompanied. They are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct expected from adults. (see Patron Conduct policy).

5. If a child behaves in a disruptive manner (whether or not accompanied by a responsible adult), they will be given a warning that they must correct their behavior or leave the Library. If the child continues to be disruptive after this warning, then the library staff will ask them to leave the library.

6. Parents and caregivers are expected to be aware of the hours of operation of the Library. If an emergency occurs that requires unexpected closure of the building every effort will be made to contact the parents or caregivers prior to closing.

7. If an unattended child over the age of twelve is left at the Library after closing time the Massena Police Department will be called.

8. Under no circumstances will Library staff arrange for or transport a child off the Library premises.

9. Adults are permitted in children's area of the library when accompanied by a child or if the adult is actively reading, studying and using library materials from the children's area collections. Any adult not in compliance with this provision will be asked to use other areas of the library. If the individual does not comply with staff direction or repeatedly violates this policy, the individual may be banned from the Library.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Trustees on May 10, 2022