

# Maywood Public Library - Policy on Children in the Library

In an effort to provide a library environment that allows all patrons to utilize library materials and information sources in a safe, relaxed manner, the Maywood Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted a policy concerning children in the library.

NJSA 9:6-8.21 prohibits parents from endangering the welfare of their children.

NJSA 30:5B-1 prohibits the library from functioning as a child care center unless licensed by the State of New Jersey.

The safety of children cannot be guaranteed in any public place, including inside the Maywood Public Library ("Library") and also including outside on the Library property ("Library premises"). An Adult may not leave children under the age of nine (9) years at the Library and is responsible for their child's behavior while anywhere in/on the Library premises. Children and young people who are disruptive in the Library or on Library premises interfere with the Library's service to all patrons. The Library is not a child care provider but is a public institution where all patrons have an equal right to quality library services in a safe and relaxed environment.

Therefore:

1. Children under the age of 9 may not be in the Library or on its premises unless accompanied by a parent/guardian/responsible caregiver ("Parent") at all times, including without limitation, during story time or during other children's programs.
2. If a Parent wishes to leave a child 8 or under for a short period of time in the Children's Room, the Parent must inform the Children's Room staff. The Parent must never leave the Library premises at all.
3. Children age 9 - 14 may be in the Library without a Parent for a reasonable period of time, particularly after school, but Parents will be responsible for their behavior and will be contacted if necessary. (Reasonable period of time may vary with a child's maturity, but generally one to two hours, but no longer than 3 hours is an acceptable period of time.) Children age 9-14 are expected to be quiet and well behaved while in the Library (See Code of Conduct). If a problem arises with a child while on the Library premises and the child is not accompanied by a Parent, the Library staff will attempt to contact a Parent. If the Library staff is unable to reach a Parent, the Library staff will contact the Maywood Police Department ("Police") to take custody of the child.
4. Children age 14 and over are old enough to use the Library responsibly and for extended periods of time unaccompanied by an Adult. If a problem arises, the child may be asked to leave the Library premises or an Adult or the Police may be contacted.
5. A Parent must be at the Library at least fifteen (15) minutes before closing to pick up their child. All patrons must leave the Library promptly at closing time. At closing, if an unattended child is still in the Library, the Police will be called to take custody of the child.

**\*\*\*PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR CHILDREN IN OR ABOUT THE LIBRARY PREMISES AND SHALL BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE THEY CAUSE.**