



Tom Green County Safe Child Policy

Statement of Philosophy

The Tom Green County Library System welcomes children of all ages to use our materials and services. We believe that parents are best able to make decisions about the books and materials their children would enjoy, as well as to decide when children are prepared to use the library alone. Our staff are prepared to assist children and their parents in the use of Library materials or services.

However, no public place, including the Library, can guarantee the safety of children. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent or legal guardian and not with library personnel.

Policy and Procedures

Children ten years of age or younger must remain in the vicinity and within visual contact of a parent, legal guardian, or other adult of at least 18 years of age who acknowledges responsibility for the child during their stay in the library. These parents and/or adults are responsible for their children's behavior while in the building.

During regular service hours, if Library staff determines that an underage child has been left unattended and is not coping adequately, then staff will attempt to locate a parent or caregiver to pick up the child. If the parent or caregiver cannot be contacted within 30 minutes, law enforcement personnel (Police or Sheriff's Department) will be contacted for assistance.

Unattended Children at Closing

When visiting the Library without an adult, children should have definite arrangements to be picked up by closing time. If children are left unattended at closing, Library staff will call law enforcement personnel for assistance. Under no circumstances will library personnel transport someone else's child to another location.