

# Child and Youth Safety Policy

The Morton Public Library District is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, use our collections and services, and attend programs. Please note the following policies:

1. The Morton Public Library District requires all visitors, including children and teens, to comply with our Code of Conduct.
2. Library staff is available to assist and support children with their use of Library resources, including finding materials for school assignments and recreational reading.
3. Parents, guardians, and/or the responsible caregiver—not the Library—are responsible for the supervision, safety and behavior children in their care in the Library and on Library grounds, whether or not the parents are in attendance.
4. Disruptive children, attended or unattended, may be asked to leave. We encourage parents to talk to their children about appropriate behavior in the library.
5. Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for noting scheduled Library closing times and should be aware that a Library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies or safety issues.
6. The Library is not responsible if children leave the Library unattended. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and/or caregivers to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the Library. Library staff members cannot provide childcare and are not responsible for the supervision of children. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the library staff to guarantee a safe environment.
7. Library staff may call appropriate agencies if an individual appears to be truant, is left unattended when a Library facility closes, or otherwise appears to be unwilling or unable to care for themselves.

Approved May 12, 2021