



Benbrook Library District
Children in the Library Policy

Approved: February 24, 2025

The Benbrook Library District (BLD) welcomes children and their caregivers to use its facilities and services. BLD staff are here to serve all our patrons in the best way possible. Please be aware that the library is a public building and open to all. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of the children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. A caregiver must be at least 16 years of age.

Supervision of Children:

Library staff members have many duties and cannot supervise children nor act as a substitute for daycare. Children aged 9 and under must have a parent or caregiver within the library facilities and cannot be left unattended in any part of the library.

Children aged 10 to 15 may use the library unattended for no more than three hours. Staff will note any disruptions caused by children who are unaccompanied. Children using inappropriate behavior will be informed of the rules. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child shall be asked to leave the library. If a child in this age group is unaccompanied by an adult or appropriate aged caregiver, staff will follow the directions below for children found on Library premises without a parent or caregiver. Individual library staff may not take responsibility for a child of any age. The failure by a parent, guardian, or child to comply with any Library policy may result in the suspension or termination of such parent's, guardian's, and/or child's library privileges. Parents and legal guardians are unconditionally responsible for their children's behavior, including materials used in the library or being checked out.

Abandoned Child:

If a child is found without a parent or caregiver, Library staff will make a reasonable effort to contact the parent or caregiver who is not in the library to come and pick up the child. Staff will express the library's concern for the child's safety and explain the Children in the Library Policy.

If the parent or caregiver cannot be located within 30 minutes, Library staff will contact the Benbrook Police. If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 15 minutes of closing, Library staff will call the Benbrook Police to pick up the child. Library staff will not transport any child from the library to another location. Library staff does not have any responsibility or obligation to report persons who seem to be truant. Library staff do not serve in the role of parents or police.