

Child Policy of the Bushnell-Sage Library

The Staff of the Bushnell-Sage Library strives to create a warm, inviting, and fun environment for our library patrons. We offer many programs and services designed especially to encourage children to develop a love of books, reading and learning. However, the safety and well-being of children at the library is a serious concern. It is the intention of this policy to enlist the cooperation of parents and caregivers to ensure that our library provides a safe and pleasant experience for all who use it.

For the protection and well-being of children in the library, we ask all to comply with the following policy:

- All children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or caregiver while in the library, whether to use the resources or attend a program. Exceptions are made for school ½ day programs and other lengthy special programs.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the library, not library personnel.
- Parents or caregivers are responsible for monitoring what their children see, read or hear at the library, and what materials their charges check out.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring that appropriate behavior is followed. Disruptive behavior, such as shouting, running, pushing or other loud, physical and/or dangerous activities will not be tolerated. Joyriding on the elevator will not be tolerated. Children who continue to be disruptive after a warning will be asked to leave the building. If that occurs during one of the aforementioned exceptions, an attempt to contact a family member or caregiver will be made. If none can be reached, the Sheffield Police Department may be contacted at the discretion of library staff. The parent or caregiver is liable for all damages their charges do to the library's facilities, equipment or materials.
- Food and beverages are not to be consumed in the children's area on the main floor unless as an approved part of a library program.
- Children and their parents or caregivers must be aware of the library's closing times. If a child under age 16 is left at the library without a ride or assistance home 20 minutes before closing time, an attempt will be made to contact a family member or caregiver by telephone. Staff is not permitted to remain after closing to sit with a child or give him/her a ride home. If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached, the local police will be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be reached. A staff member will remain with the child until the police arrive. The Library Director will be informed whenever this action becomes necessary, and s/he will contact the parent or caregiver to restate and emphasize the conditions of our policy.