

## WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### RULES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

We want the Westchester Public Library to be a welcoming, safe place for your children. Our staff has many duties to perform in order to serve all patrons in the best way possible. For this reason, the staff cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of your children. Staff cannot assume the responsibility for your children's care when they are in the library. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be approached by a stranger, become ill, wander outside, or become lost or injured. We are primarily concerned with your children's safety, and we need your cooperation and assistance to help keep your children safe.

The library staff will render appropriate assistance to an ill or injured child if necessary, but are cautioned to not otherwise touch or restrain a child in the library.

- We expect parents/caregivers to be responsible for their children's behavior in the library.
- We expect parents to maintain control of their children while visiting the library. Please remember that the library staff's professional services do not include baby-sitting.
- We expect parents to understand and explain the library rules to their children. The rules and policies have been developed to safeguard the collection and ensure fairness for all library users.
- We expect all children under the age of 8 to be accompanied by an adult at all times while visiting the library. The library in no way assumes responsibility for any child of any age left unattended in the building.
- We expect all children and teens to use appropriate language and behavior in the library. Those who do not will be asked to leave.
- We expect parents to remove from the library children who are crying loudly or having a tantrum.
- We expect parents to set reasonable time limits for their children's library visits. Parents/caregivers must remain in the immediate program area during programs if their child is under 5 years of age. Children 5 and older may attend library programs without a parent, but parents must be there to pick up their children promptly upon conclusion of the program.
- We expect parents to let us know if they or their children are unable to find the type of material they seek. We welcome suggestions for materials that will broaden our collection and improve our services.
- We expect parents to be responsible for the types of materials checked out by their children and their selection choices. The library staff does not limit choices or censor materials.
- We expect parents to see that overdue fines are paid promptly. Parents are financially responsible for any fines and fees, damages to library materials, equipment, or property incurred by their children.
- We expect parents to help their children arrive on time for programs.

- We expect parents who attend children's programming with their children to demonstrate good listening habits and to not disrupt the programming with loud talking themselves.
- We expect parents/caregivers of children between the ages of 8 and 12 to make certain their children are picked up by closing time.
- We expect parents to keep sick children at home and not bring them to the library, especially during children's programming when illness may easily be spread to other children.