

SAFE CHILD POLICY

Purpose:

The Board of Trustees has established this policy to provide for the general safety of children using the library so they can learn to enjoy reading and libraries and to provide patrons with a pleasant, user friendly library.

Intent:

The well-being of children left alone in a public building is a serious concern. Although our staff members attempt to ensure the safety of children in the building, their duties as providers of library services prevent them from being able to supervise each child. It is a public institution where all patrons have an equal right to quality library service in a friendly and peaceful environment.

The library cannot assume responsibility for the safety of young children. The physical make-up of our building, with its many doors, separate rooms and many corners makes it impossible to see patrons at all times. This is especially true of small children who may suffer an injury or may leave the public areas if left unattended. **Adults must keep children with them.** Staff will not be placed in the position of supervising children, who are too young to be left unattended.

In order to prevent unnecessary disruption of routine library activities, the following rules and regulations are provided:

1. All children age six years or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person, e.g. an adult or a mature adolescent.
2. Children aged 7 and over may be left unattended, at the discretion of a responsible adult or mature adolescent. Children may be left alone for a period of time deemed necessary to research an assignment, complete a homework task, attend a library program, or for a period of time to select books and read in the library.
3. Persons responsible for children who have special problems, related to physical or mental ability, disruptive behavior,

emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, etc., shall remain with their children at all times.

4. Children will be expected to display appropriate behavior, conducive to maintaining a peaceful atmosphere in the building for all patrons. The child will be asked to leave the premises if proper behavior is not maintained.
5. Persons using computers who bring young children along are responsible for making sure the children are well-behaved and well-supervised.
6. Children of all ages who do not have transportation home at closing time will be asked for a telephone number of a person who can pick them up at the library. If transportation is not available within 15 minutes of closing, the police will be asked to pick up the children.

The Mt. Pleasant Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees
March 10, 2007