



SAFE CHILD POLICY

The Sanborn-Pekin Free Library welcomes the use of our facility by children, and offers programs and services to encourage children to develop a love of books, reading and learning. For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy the library and to prevent undue disruption of ongoing library services, Sanborn-Pekin Free Library has adopted the following rules:

- Library staff are available to help and support children. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for a child's safety and comfort, especially when that child is unattended. Therefore:
 - Children under the age of 8 must be supervised at all times. An exception is made for children attending a library program such as chaperoned class visit.
 - Children ages 9-14 may use the Library on their own for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior. Parents are still, however, responsible for the actions of their children. Children using what is deemed inappropriate behavior by Library staff may be asked to leave the Library. If a child of this age group is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library alone.
 - Young people 14-17 are treated as adult users. However, they are still legally the responsibility of their parents.
- The Library does not act in place of parents (in loco parentis).
- Parents, whether or not physically present, are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children (age 17 and under) at all time on library property. Children are expected to respect the materials in the library and adhere to the Patron Code of Conduct policy. Parents will also be responsible for any incidents, accidents, disturbance or damages arising from the actions of their child.
- The library is not designed or licensed to provide basic childcare needs and should not be viewed as an alternative to daycare. Unlike a daycare facility, the library is not a closed environment. Staff members cannot monitor everyone who enters, and all adult patrons are free to use any public area within the library.
- Caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the Library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Furthermore, power failures or other emergencies can occur and may require unexpected closing of the building. Since children left alone outside the Library could be vulnerable, every effort will be made to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver prior to closing. If, however, a child is left at the Library after closing time or as the result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the building or transport children to another location.

Parents, legal guardians, custodians, caregivers and children who are in violation of this policy are subject to suspension of library privileges.