

STURGIS LIBRARY CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Children are always welcome at the Sturgis Library. We are glad your children are here. The Library staff strives to provide a safe and comfortable environment for people of all ages. Conduct, safety, and supervision of children while on library premises are the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers. Please take a moment to review the following guidelines:

Children under age 10 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times while in the library.

Children 10 and older may use the Library unattended as long as their conduct is acceptable in a library setting. Parents/guardians are expected to be aware that their child is at the Library. The child will be asked to leave the premises if proper behavior is not maintained. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both child and adult should be aware of Library hours. The police will be notified if a child under 13 is left waiting outside the Library after hours.

Children learn by watching. Please refrain from conversations with other adults or use of a cell phone during Storytime so that your children learn to be attentive, active participants. Adult participation in Storytime activities is expected and appreciated.

NO food or drinks are allowed during Storytime as it becomes both messy and distracting. Children may eat (seated) at a table afterwards, provided any mess made is cleaned up.

NO running.

NO climbing.

NO yelling/screaming.

Sometimes children change their minds about being at Storytime. They squirm, cry, or don't want to participate. These are usually signs that they want to leave. If your child is fidgeting or unhappy, please quietly take your child out of the room. Once you leave the room, please do not re-enter since it can be disruptive to the other children. There will be another Storytime, another day, so try to make it pleasant for everyone! If your child is crying or yelling loudly, please respect other Library patrons and staff by stepping outside of the building temporarily. It's unfair for everyone to be disrupted.

For the safety of little fingers, please do not allow your child to operate the folding doors to the Storytime room. In or out – they need to decide on one or the other.

Encourage your child (or help them) to put away any toys he/she uses.

Hitting is unacceptable. For the safety and comfort of all families, please gently remove your child from the Library should he or she become frustrated to the point of becoming physical.

When you are leaving or checking out your selections, please be mindful of other Library patrons. Watch your child and remind him/her to be quiet and under control so other people will not be disturbed.

We offer a changing station in the public restroom at the foot of the stairs. We do ask that you take any soiled diapers home and dispose of them there.