

Beaver Island District Library welcomes children to use the library facilities as a safe and inviting environment. Library staff provide assistance in locating reading material, utilizing the computers and developing programs that might interest children of various ages.

Responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Although staff will show care and concern for children in the library, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety, behavior and welfare of unattended children. The library does not perform daycare or babysitting duties, nor is it licensed to do so. Staff are engaged entirely in circulation, information and other library service duties.

- Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/caregiver or other responsible person over the age of 14 in close proximity while in the library. The parent/guardian/caregiver is responsible for the behavior and supervision of children in their care while at the library.
- Children aged 5-8 may use the library but must have a parent/responsible caregiver on the library's premises and must follow the code of conduct.
- Children aged 9 -13 may use the library unattended, but should not be left unsupervised for extended periods of time (longer than 3 hours).
- Children aged 14-18 may use the library unattended as long as the code of conduct is followed.

Parents must also remember that libraries are public buildings and as such anyone can enter the building and use the computers and other services. It is not the responsibility of library staff to watch the interaction of children and other patrons. At all times parents are responsible for the behavior and safety of their children in the library, whether or not the parents are present.

Additionally, the library advises parents/guardians/caregivers to accompany children of any age who have emotional, mental, or physical concerns which render supervision necessary. Staff will assist and accommodate those with special needs as much as it is able, but library staff cannot assist them to the degree that those familiar with their needs are able to.

We understand the need for school children to have a safe and secure place to go after school. We welcome them at the library until closing on those days (Monday thru Friday) during the school year.

However, weekends, during school breaks, and during the summer months, the library is not to be used as a daycare center or place to leave unattended children (ages younger than 13) for extended periods of time (longer than 3 hours) without supervision by parent/caregiver/guardian.

Children left at closing time:

Parents/guardians/caregivers should be aware of the library's closing times and make arrangements for their child(ren) to be picked up before closing time.

If a minor under age 13 is left unattended at closing time, they will be brought into library and allowed to use the phone if necessary. If the ride is not here within 15 minutes, library staff will call the deputy sheriff department.

Normal efforts to locate parents, relatives, neighbors, family, friends, etc. should be made, using information from the child. The computer database or phone book may be used if necessary.

Under no circumstances will a staff member take the child out of the building.

Staff members are not allowed to drive the child home.