

## **CHILD SAFETY POLICY**

The RKML welcomes children and families to use its facilities, resources and services. The Library is concerned for the safety of children in and around the Library.

Parents, guardians or caregivers assume all responsibility for the conduct, well-being and safety of their children in the Library regardless of the parents, guardians or caregivers physical presence in the Library. Library staff is not responsible for the supervision, safety or well-being of unaccompanied child patrons.

Children 10 years of age or older may visit the Library unattended.

For children less than 10 years of age, a responsible parent, guardian or caregiver that is at least 14 years of age must:

- Accompany any child under 10 years of age who is using the Library.
- Always be in the vicinity of any child under 8 years of age.
- Children under the age of six years old must be within arm's length of the accompanying parent/guardian or responsible party.
- The Library is not responsible for any contact with potential allergens and cannot guarantee an allergen free environment.
- Library staff cannot supervise any child so that a parent, guardian or caregiver may leave the area or leave the building.
- Parents, guardians or caregivers are expected to be aware that the Library's hours might change unexpectedly. The staff cannot monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it the staff's responsibility to know with whom a child is leaving.
- Under no circumstances can a Library staff member or volunteer transport any patron.
- If a child appears to be lost or left, or remains on the Library premises at closing time or at any other time, the police may be called if a parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be reached. Two staff members will wait with any child or minor until they are picked up by a parent/guardian or responsible party.

Approved by the RKML Board of Trustees on April 9, 2024