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 libraries and reading as well as provide patrons with a pleasant, user-friendly library. **Children are defined as any person under the age of 18.**

Intent:
Although our library staff attempts 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.

The Mount Pleasant Public Library shall not assume responsibility for the safety of unattended children left on library premises. The library staff shall not provide childcare, or be placed in the position of supervising children left unattended. Children should not be dropped off at the library for such purposes.

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

1. All children ages eight years or younger shall be attended and adequately supervised at all times by a responsible person, e.g. an adult or a mature adolescent over the age of 14.
2. Parents or caregivers of preschool children must remain in the library while their children are attending library programs.
3. Unattended children in the library or on library grounds during afterschool hours must be engaged in activities of scholastic or personal enrichment. These activities include reading, writing, homework, computer work, study, arts, crafts, and other enriching activities. This policy **does not** allow loitering, loud conversation, rough-housing, or any other disruptive behavior.
4. Parents and caregivers 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.
5. Children of all ages must comply with the Library Conduct Policy and will be expected to display appropriate behaviors conducive to maintaining a peaceful atmosphere in the building for all patrons. **Children may be asked to leave the premises if appropriate behaviors are not maintained.**
6. Persons using computers who bring young children along are responsible for making sure the children are well-behaved and well-supervised.
7. 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 the child is not able to provide a phone number, library staff will contact the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2014