

CHILDREN	
Policy Statement	
Purpose	To outline the behavioral, safety, and responsibility expectations pertaining to children at the WMRL.
Scope	This policy applies to all children, and the parents/caregivers of children.
Definitions	<p>Patron: Any user of the WMRL, whether holding a valid Library account or not.</p> <p>Child: Any patron under the age of 13.</p>
Policy Guidelines	<p>The WMRL welcomes children, and ongoing efforts are made to provide spaces, collections, and programs specific to children's needs and interests.</p> <p>BORROWING PRIVILEGES:</p> <p>It is not the role of the WMRL to censor the reading, viewing, or activity choices of its patrons. To this end, children enjoy the same borrowing privileges as adults. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine what materials they wish their child to access.</p> <p>GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY:</p> <p>A child's safety, wellbeing, and behaviour within WMRL facilities, and when partaking of remote WMRL services, programs, and resources, are the responsibility of the child's parent/caregiver. It is not the responsibility of WMRL staff members or volunteers to tend to or supervise children in the general areas of the Library, and no child may be left unattended in any WMRL facility.</p> <p>LIBRARY STAFF RESPONSIBILITY:</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Director of Library Services or their designate to maintain safe and respectful environments within all branches of the WMRL. To this end, any behaviours in violation of the WMRL's Public Conduct Policy will not be tolerated and may result in patrons being asked to leave the premises. All WMRL staff members hold the authority to ask patrons, including children and their caregivers, to desist from problematic behaviour, leave the premises for the remainder of the day in question, and/or call upon available security personnel for support.</p>
Date of Approval	Approved by the Library Board on February 16, 2022, in effect immediately.