



Hemet Public Library Children's Library Use Policy (adopted by the Board of Trustees May 2013)

The objectives of the Hemet Public Library's Children's Library are to promote a love of libraries, create lifelong readers and library users, and to provide children with access to information and literature. In accordance with this policy, library staff does not limit children's access to library materials in any form. The Children's Library is available for use by those patrons who are accessing the special materials contained in the children's collection and for use by children and their caregivers to attend children's programs and to utilize other associated services provided by the Children's Library. Patrons not included in these categories are required to leave the Children's Library and instead use more appropriate areas of the library. Children are encouraged to utilize library books, computers, and other Children's Library materials, as well as engage in play. Children's game computers are available for use one time a day, for up to 30 minutes. Computers are available on a first come, first serve basis and all users are required to sign-in before using a computer. Priority of use is given to those who signed-in for a computer. For children needing quiet areas for study, the library has provided study rooms. A study room policy is available at the Children's Library Reference and Information Desk.

All patrons must abide by the Hemet Public Library's Code of Conduct while in the Children's Library. Library staff shall have the responsibility of interpreting the Hemet Public Library's Code of Conduct. A child aged eight and under must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian or caregiver at all times and the parent/legal guardian or caregiver must remain within sight to provide direct supervision. A caregiver must be at least 12 years of age and be able to effectively monitor the child's behavior and ensure compliance with library policy on behavior. If a child's behavior is not in accordance with library policy, library staff may ask the child to leave the library or staff may request the Hemet Police Department's assistance with handling inappropriate behavioral situations. It is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians and caregivers to ensure their children's safety, welfare, and behavior while on library property. Library staff members are not responsible for the direct supervision, safety, or welfare of any child or the child's personal belongings.

If a child age eight or under is unattended at the library, library staff will make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent/legal guardian and inform him/her of library policy. When the parent/legal guardian is located, he/she will be informed of the library policy and asked to either join the child at the library or to pick the child up immediately. If a parent/legal guardian cannot be reached or does not arrange for supervision, the Hemet Police Department may be notified. Children age nine and older may use the library without supervision. However, parents/legal guardians are still responsible for the actions and well-being of their children while at the library. Children behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave the library. If a child in this age group is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library alone.

If a child has been left at the library without assistance getting home at closing time, staff will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parents/legal guardians. Staff is not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child nor give the child a ride home. If a parent/legal guardian cannot be reached within 10 minutes after the library's closing, the Hemet Police Department may be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parent/legal guardian can be reached.