

DEEP RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Child and Minor Policy

Library Cards for Children and Minors

Children and minors that are residents of Deep River are able to obtain a library card free of charge. A parent or guardian is required to sign the minor application in person, with valid identification, that acknowledges and assumes responsibility for the minor regarding material use, fees, and internet use. The parent or guardian is also assuming responsibility for the minor's actions in the library at all times and ensures they are following the patron code of conduct in the building.

Use of Children's Area

The Children's Area is reserved for the use of children 8 or younger, their guardians, and developmentally delayed adults. Adults unaccompanied by a child may use the Children's Area only if they are looking for materials to check out and they must leave the space once they have located the items. Adults unaccompanied by a child may not use the Children's Area to lounge and will be asked to leave. The use of the Children's Area iPads are restricted to children aged 8 and younger.

Unattended Child Policy

The Deep River Public Library is a department of the Town of Deep River and is a taxpayer-supported institution. As a result, the Library Board is responsible for establishing policies and rules of conduct to protect the rights and safety of all library patrons, volunteers, and staff, and for preserving and protecting the Library's materials, equipment, facilities, and grounds.

- In accordance with Connecticut State Statute 53-21a-c, children under the age of 12 should not be left unsupervised in a public place for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety.
- Guardians are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children at all times on the Library premise. Guardians must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, the abilities, and the levels of responsibility of their children.
- As a public institution, open to many people, Library staff cannot guarantee the safety of children who are left unattended in library premises. Library staff do not serve the place of a caregiver. Parents/guardians/caregivers or older family members over the age of 12 are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children/siblings.
- Children and minors must follow the patron code of conduct. Staff may ask minors to leave and will attempt to contact parents or guardians if there is an issue with a child.
- Guardians must be aware of Library hours and will be contacted if a child is unaccompanied at the library within 15 minutes of closing to arrange transportation.
- If a child is not picked up within 15 minutes of closing, the staff will call police for assistance.

Minor Use of Computers

Children and minors are able to use the public computers during library hours with their library card that acknowledges they have received permission from their guardian. The Library affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and caregivers to monitor and determine their children's access to library materials and resources, including those available through the Internet. The public computers have a time limit of one hour to ensure access for all patrons.

There are **no filters on the public computers**. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Children and minors, defined as individuals under 18 years of age by Connecticut State Statute, who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the use of the Internet in relation to family values and boundaries with their children and teens and to monitor their children/teen's use of the Internet.

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