



Rules for Children's Use of the Library

Children under 18 years of age are important and valued library users. Users of all ages are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct. In addition, certain additional rules apply to young users.

Role of the Library

Irvine Public Library does not act in the place of a parent or legal guardian when children are using the library independently. Library staff are trained to help children in the use of library services. However, parents should be aware that the library is a public building and open to all individuals. Library users under 18 have full access to the library collection. Children's library computers have filtered internet; however, the library cannot guarantee that the filter will exclude all materials that a parent or legal guardian might find objectionable. Early literacy computers with no access to the internet are available for children's use. Library staff are mandated reporters under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA).

Role of the Parent, Guardian, or Caregiver

It is the role of the parent, guardian, or caregiver to ensure children in their care are using the library respectfully and safely. These rules outline minimum ages for independent use; however, caregivers are expected to accompany children regardless of age as necessary to ensure enjoyment of the library by all. While accompanying a young child, caregivers are expected to provide active supervision.



Rules

- 1) Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to be in the library without a caregiver of at least 14 years of age. Library staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child and reserve the right to contact the Irvine Police Department (IPD) if a parent cannot be reached.
- 2) Children ages 12 and older may use the library unaccompanied. Library staff will contact the parent or guardian of children ages 12 and older who are causing disruption or violating the Code of Conduct.
- 3) Library staff will contact IPD at 15 minutes past closing time to ask them to take custody of any unaccompanied children remaining at the library. If the library closes unexpectedly for any reason, unaccompanied children are expected to contact a caregiver; IPD will take custody of the child if a caregiver cannot be reached. Under no circumstances will staff transport unattended children.
- 4) Adults using areas designated for children or teens without being accompanied by a child or teen or without a need to use resources in that area are prohibited.