# Child Safety Policy

The Irondale Public Library encourages children of all ages to take advantage of the resources available for them to meet their informational, educational, and recreational needs. In order to provide for the general safety of children using the Library and in order to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the Library the following rules will be followed.

Children under the age of 10 must be attended to by a parent or other responsible caregiver aged 16 or older. Children under 10 may not be left in the Children's Department while the parent or responsible caregiver is elsewhere in the library.

Parents/Responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library, whether or not the parent is present.

Disruptive children are defined as those violating Library regulations. It is not the function of the Library staff to deal with disruptive children, therefore any child whose behavior is deemed disruptive by Library staff may be asked to leave the Library for one day following a verbal warning. (See Patron Behavior Policy)

Children under the age of 10 attending a Library program must be brought into the building by a parent or responsible caregiver who must remain in the building until the conclusion of the program.

The Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of any child left unattended. If a child under the age of 18 is left at the library after closing time, at least two library staff members will wait with the child for up to 15 minutes while trying to reach the parents/caregivers. After the allotted 15 minutes, the supervising Library staff member will call the Irondale Police to escort the child to the police station. Neither the Library nor its staff shall assume responsibility for the safety of a child once the child leaves the Library.

Under no other circumstances will Library staff transport or take a child away from the Library building.

(Approved by The Irondale Public Library Board of Trustees on the 27th day of October, 2010)

(Revised and Approved by The Irondale Library Board of Trustees on the 18th day of September, 2025.)