

Braswell Memorial Library Child Safety Policy
Revised and Approved by the Board of Trustees August 13, 2008

Braswell Memorial Library welcomes children of all ages and offers a wide variety of programs, services, and materials for them. While the library is intended as a "door to lifelong learning" it is also a public building. Thousands of people visit our library every day. Anyone can enter and leave the building without supervision by the library staff.

The library staff has many duties to attend to in serving our patrons and cannot provide supervision or care for young children in the library. Without the knowledge of the library staff, a stranger could approach a young child left alone in the library or that child might wander out of the library and off the library premises. The library cannot assume responsibility for children left in the library, nor can it assume responsibility for children left at the library at closing time.

To insure that children have a pleasant, safe experience at the library, parents and/or caregivers are asked to observe the following rules:

1. Children under **12** should be within sight of a parent or responsible caretaker age 18 or older at all times while on library property. Children **MUST** be **12** to be here on their own.
2. Arrangements should be made to pick up all children under the age of 18 before library closing time. If a child is not picked up by closing time, the Supervisor on Duty and another staff member will remain with the child and attempt to contact a parent/caregiver. If contact cannot be made within thirty minutes after closing time or contact has been made but a child has not been picked up thirty minutes after closing time, the Supervisor on Duty will contact the Rocky Mount Police Department and will place the child in custody of the police.
3. Everyone, regardless of age, is subject to the library's Patron Behavior Policy. Parents or guardians are responsible for the conduct of their minor children (under 18) while on library property, regardless of whether or not they accompany the child to the library. If children under age **12** are in the library without adequate supervision, the police may be called to take appropriate action.
4. An incident report will be filed for each violation of these rules. Repeated violations of these rules may result in suspension of library privileges.
5. It is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to instill the need for caution when using the Internet and to motivate the child toward pursuing reliable, age-appropriate sites. Children must comply with the Internet Policy to insure continued use of Braswell Memorial Library's computers. A copy of the policy is located at the desk and appears on the terminal screen at the beginning of an Internet session
6. Parents and other responsible parties should be aware of North Carolina General Statute 14-316.1 "Contributing to delinquency and neglect by parents and others."