

# Baxter Memorial Library

## Child Safety Policy

Approved July 21, 2022

The Baxter Memorial Library welcomes children of all ages to use the library. The following policy is in place to protect children who use the library and to provide for the general welfare of all library patrons.

- Responsibility for the behavior and wellbeing of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian or caregiver assigned by the parent and not with the library staff/volunteers.
- Library staff/volunteers monitor the behavior of patrons as a whole, but can't take responsibility for the care and behavior of each child. The staff/volunteers do not take the place of a parent, act as caregiver or babysitter, nor assume responsibility for children in the library.
- The Library requests that parents have a contingency plan for their children should the library close early due to weather or other emergency. Children should carry parent/guardian phone numbers in case of emergency.
- Children **in fourth grade and under** must be accompanied and adequately supervised by an adult, guardian or responsible caregiver during their entire stay in the library.
- Children **in fifth grade and up** may use the library unattended to do research, homework, attend a library program, use the computer or to select books and other materials.
- We ask that parents/guardians review the Library's Patron Behavior Policy with their child(ren) to ensure everyone understands and can adhere to.
- When an unattended child is at the library at closing time, Library staff will make every effort to contact parents/guardians/caregivers of the child. If no one can be found, Library staff will contact the police. Staff/Volunteers are not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child or provide transportation to another location.
- The library realizes that special circumstances may arise on occasion. The Library Director will address these issues on an individual basis.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Library Director, [sharonbaxterlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbaxterlibrary@gmail.com) or 802-763-2875.