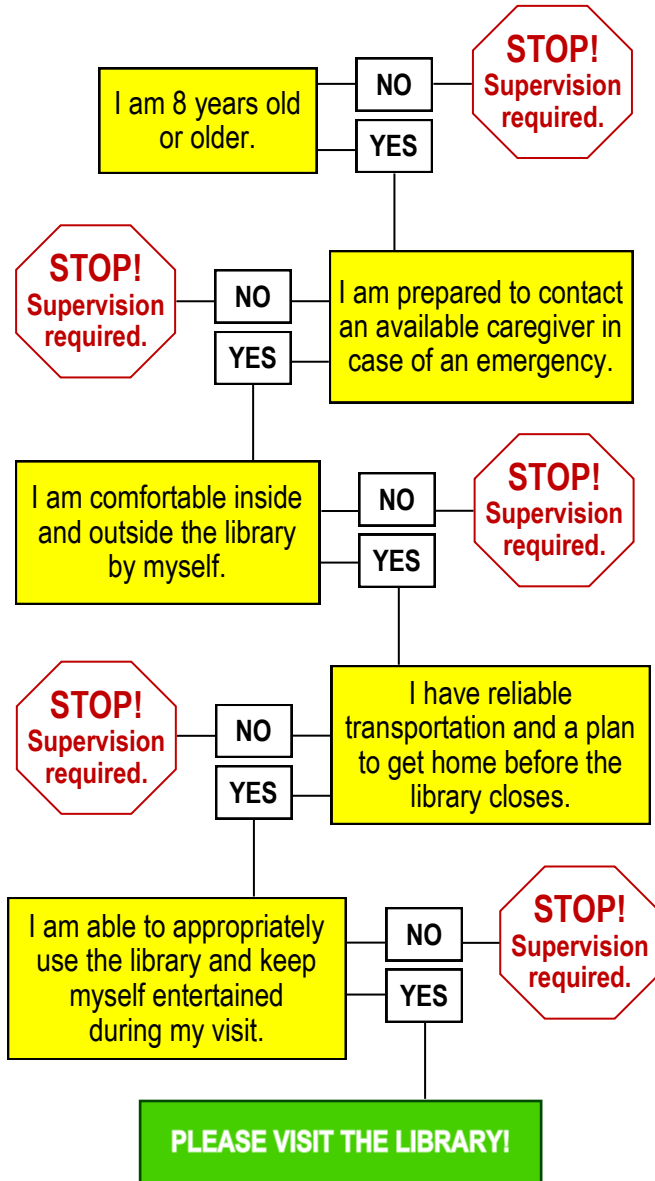


# CHILD SAFETY CHECKLIST

Please complete this checklist prior to each library visit:



YOUTH SERVICES  
Stevens Point Branch  
715-346-1549  
www.pocolibrary.org



Plover Branch  
715-341-4007  
www.pocolibrary.org



Rosholt Branch  
715-677-4512  
www.pocolibrary.org



Almond Branch  
715-366-2151  
www.pocolibrary.org



# CHILD SAFETY GUIDE

@ the Portage County Public Library

“A library card is the start of a lifelong adventure.”  
- Lilian Jackson Braun

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”  
- Margaret Fuller

## The Library: A Safe & Friendly Place

The trustees and staff of the Portage County Public Library strive to provide a welcoming, safe, and comfortable environment for all visitors and staff. The youth areas at all library branches offer a special opportunity for children to explore their interests, complete assignments, visit with others, and develop a love of reading. While the safety of children within the library is a serious concern of staff, the responsibility for the safety and behavior of children rests with the parent or caregiver.

In an effort to help the library ensure continuity of excellent services to all patrons and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use consistent with the library's mission, the following guidelines and policies have been established for children visiting the library.



## Visiting the Library

- ◆ A self-sufficient child 8 years old or older is welcome to appropriately use the library unattended if they can answer “yes” to every statement on the Child Safety Checklist (*see page 4*).
- ◆ Children under age 8 must be supervised by a parent or caregiver\* by remaining in visual contact at all times.  
*\*A caregiver is defined as a responsible person at least 14 years old who is in charge of the safety, wellbeing, and behavior of a child.*
- ◆ All children and teens are subject to the same Behavior Policy as adult patrons, and disruptive and destructive visitors of any age may be asked to leave the library.
- ◆ A child unattended in the library must be equipped to contact someone in case of an emergency, and must be capable of safely leaving the library alone.
- ◆ If an unattended child is left in the library at closing time with no way to get home, library staff will call the police for assistance.

## Using Library Materials

- ◆ Parents/caregivers are responsible for supervising the materials their child is allowed to borrow or use in the library and should make their family's rules clear to the child.

## Playing in the Library

- ◆ Be gentle with library property and put away any toys and games that are used.
- ◆ Use inside voices that do not disturb other library visitors.
- ◆ Portray safe actions that do not put themselves or others in danger, or in uncomfortable, unpleasant situations. Avoid “playground play.”
- ◆ Play nice and share library toys with others.

## Attending Library Events

- ◆ Unless explicitly stated otherwise, parents/caregivers must supervise a child under 8 years old at library events.

**The main purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety and well-being of children visiting the library. The library and library employees are not responsible for unattended or misbehaving children. Library employees reserve the right to ask any child behaving inappropriately to leave the library, and may contact the police in order to enforce discipline or guarantee safety. Please refer to the Child Safety Policy on our website for more details.**