



Address 123 North Main Street, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750 | **Phone** (229) 426-5080 | **Fax** (229) 426-5084 | **Website** www.fbhcl.org

Children’s Room Policy

Approved by Board of Trustees

The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library (FBHCL) staff and Board of Trustees strive to offer an environment where lifelong learning, self-improvement, and a love of reading are encouraged. The library is a place where patrons can meet their educational, informational, and intellectual needs.

We value our youngest readers and provide several programs throughout the year to encourage a love of reading, books, and visiting our library. Children left alone or unattended in the library for extended periods of time naturally may become bored and restless. There are several hazards, such as doors, furniture, and equipment, which children may encounter if allowed to wander alone throughout the library. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to use the same precautions at the library as are used in various other public places, such as malls, grocery stores, etc.

The following policy provides guidelines for children and their parents/caregivers while using the Children’s Room:

- Children 10 years or younger must be accompanied by a responsible adult or mature adolescent while in the library.
- Children 5 years or younger must be in close proximity to a responsible adult or mature adolescent at ALL times.
- No library staff member or volunteer is authorized to accept responsibility for the supervision or care of any minor child left alone or unattended at the library at any time.
- Parents must assume liability for any damages caused by their child.
- All children 8 years or younger should to be accompanied to the restroom by a responsible adult or mature adolescent.
- If it is determined that a child 10 years or younger has been left alone or unattended at the library, staff will first attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the Fitzgerald Police Department will be contacted.
- All children, regardless of age, must be picked up prior to library closing.
- Repeated violations of this policy may result in loss of library privileges.

Unaccompanied Adults

The Children’s Room is reserved for the use children, their parents, responsible caregivers, and those needing access to children’s literature. To help ensure the safety of our young patrons, adults who are unaccompanied by a child may be questioned by library staff and asked to move to another area of the library.