

Policy Title	Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Library		
Approval Date	April 21, 2026	Revision Date	
Related Policies	Access to Library Services Code of Conduct Collection Development Computer, Wireless Network and Internet Use Patron Privileges and Responsibilities		
Statutory Reference			
Purpose	Defines the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and caregivers whose children use Lopez Island Library District facilities and resources. Describes how the LILD responds to situations involving children and vulnerable adults.		

In the event of the amendment of any law, regulation, or ordinance incorporated into this policy or upon which this policy relies, the policy shall be deemed amended in conformance with those changes.

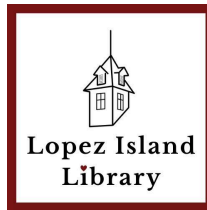
In cases where this policy conflicts with any local ordinance, state or federal law, the terms of that law, and its underlying rules or regulations shall prevail. In all other cases, Lopez Island Library District (“LILD” “Library”) policies and practices prevail.

The Board reserves the right to change and/or modify this policy at any time, as circumstances dictate and in accordance with applicable law.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are used:

- LILD: The building and grounds owned and/or managed by the Lopez Island Library District.
- Parents: The legal guardian(s) of any minor child, and/or any adult standing in loco parentis.
- In loco parentis: An individual stands in loco parentis when the individual acts in place of a parent and/or assumes the responsibilities of a parent.
- Vulnerable adults: Individuals with the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or who use a trained dog guide or service animal.



Policy:

The LILD welcomes children. LILD staff members are trained to help children with Library materials, services, programs and events provided by the LILD. We want to provide a safe and appropriate environment for all Library users. However, childcare is not the Library's role.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, comfort and behavior of their children while in the Library. They must ensure a responsible adult is with the child in the Library or that the child is mature enough to function in a safe and confident manner that observes the Library's Code of Conduct.

LILD personnel will take appropriate action if a child or vulnerable adult visiting the Library appears to be "at- risk." Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Children who appear to be under the age of six (6) left alone at the Library.
- Children of any age or vulnerable adults who are not following the Code of Conduct or appear to be frightened or crying when left alone.
- A child in the care of other children at the Library.
- Children or vulnerable adults who appear to be doing something dangerous.
- Another person in the Library appears to be a danger to the child or vulnerable adult either through physical or emotional abuse.
- Children left alone at closing time who appear to be under the age of 12 or appear distressed.

If a situation such as one of the above occurs, LILD staff members will evaluate the situation and take appropriate action.

Children's Use of Library Materials

Children's use of library materials is addressed in the LILD's Collection Development Policy.

Children's Use of LILD Provided Computers and Internet Access

Children's use of LILD provided computers and internet access is addressed in the LILD's Computer, Wireless Network and Internet Use Policy.

LILD will make a good faith effort to implement this policy in a fair and consistent manner. The Director will establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.