

## Tips for Parents

Parents can help make a child's library visit a safe and positive experience by observing the following guidelines:

1. Teach your child your address and telephone number at home and at work so you can be reached in case of emergency.
2. When possible, accompany and stay with your child at the library, or send the child with an adult caregiver who will do likewise.
3. Pick up your child before library closing time. Library staff is not permitted to stay with your child after closing. Local law enforcement may be called if this occurs, and this agency may in turn notify the Florida Department of Minors and Families.

*Note: If your child is injured at the library and you are not available, or reachable, by phone, staff will contact emergency services. Their procedures may require them to contact the Florida Department of Minors and Families.*

We look forward to welcoming your family to Broward County Library and to assisting your child in discovering all that the library has to offer.



# Just for Parents

## A Guide to Your Child's Use of Broward County Libraries

Visit Broward County Library at [www.broward.org/library](http://www.broward.org/library)

**BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services**

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# Welcome to Broward County Library

Our libraries endorse the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights. Services, materials, and facilities are open to everyone. Because libraries are public places, the well-being and safety of unattended children is a serious concern. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for supervising unattended children in or on the grounds of the library. Parents or caregivers are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children and monitoring their use of library resources.

## BEHAVIOR

Broward County Library's Customer Code of Conduct discourages behavior that interferes with other customers' enjoyment of the library, causes damage to buildings or equipment, or causes injury to oneself or others.



Please encourage your child to enjoy and respect the library by avoiding the following **unacceptable conduct in the library or on library grounds:**

- Bringing animals, except service animals, into the library
- Defacing, destroying or stealing library property
- Eating or drinking, except in authorized areas
- Engaging in behavior that is loud, obscene or abusive
- Entering the library without shirt or shoes
- Entering non-public areas such as offices
- Loitering, solicitation, etc., without prior approval
- Using language that is abusive, loud, or obscene
- Using library equipment or furniture inappropriately
- Using skates, skateboards, etc., on library premises

If your child does **not** follow library rules, staff may not necessarily contact you to report this. Instead, the following may occur:

1. The child may be asked to leave the library for the day, or
2. Library privileges may be suspended completely for a period of time

## MATERIALS

Materials selected for Broward County Libraries are intended to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community. Some materials may be controversial. To ensure your child's library visit is a pleasant one for both of you, please:



- Be aware that your child will have access to **all** materials in the library (not just those in the children's section), and
- Monitor your child's use of the library and its resources

## PROGRAMS

Programs for children include activities that emphasize the fun and importance of reading. Many of the programs also promote family literacy, school readiness, school achievement and success, and life-long library use. Libraries design and schedule programs to specifically address the interest and needs of their immediate community. Therefore, the number, type and structure of library programs vary from library to library. Some require pre-registration or the presence of a caregiver. Find out about the wide variety of programs offered by visiting Broward County Library's website at [www.broward.org/library](http://www.broward.org/library). You may also call your local library.



## PUBLIC COMPUTERS

Library computers offer your child a wealth of resources and activities that will help with success in school.



Computers provide:

- Access to the Internet
- FCAT preparation and skill-building resources for all levels of students
- Online databases (including magazine and newspaper indexes, encyclopedias, almanacs, science and geographical resources, etc.)
- Rosetta Stone (language-learning program)
- Word processing and other programs to prepare reports

We encourage you to guide your child's Internet experiences in the same manner that you guide his/her television viewing and reading material. We provide suggestions in our pamphlet "*What Parents Should Know About the Internet.*"

Please be aware:

- Children may use computers in any section of the library.
- The Internet is not regulated in any way, and it may expose your child to inaccurate material as well as questionable content.
- Parents are responsible for monitoring their child's use of library computers.