

LIBRARY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Welcome to the Santa Monica Public Library. We encourage you and your children to visit the library, use library resources and services, and attend the many programs designed for the benefit and pleasure of children and families.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY USE

Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring their child's safety, activities and behavior while visiting the Library. This includes ensuring that children are familiar with Library Rules of Conduct, they know how to contact someone in the event of an emergency and have money for a pay phone, or access to a cell phone.

We ask that you maintain direct supervision over children you bring to the Library. The Library does not provide childcare and prohibits leaving children under eight years of age unattended without a caregiver age 14 or older. Children of any age with mental, physical or emotional disabilities which affect decision-making skills or render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.

The Library is not responsible for inadvertent viewing. The Library is not able to guarantee privacy for individuals using electronic or other library resources, as inadvertent viewing of publicly available materials can occur in a public facility.

Parents and children must be aware of Library closing times. Children left unattended at closing time may not wait alone outside of the building. The child will be deemed at risk and the Santa Monica Police Department will be contacted to ensure the child's safety. Under no circumstances will library staff transport unattended children.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET USE

Parents or legal guardians have the responsibility to monitor the use of library materials, including use of the Internet and other electronic resources, by their own child. Please speak to your child about responsible use of the Internet. While the Internet offers access to many valuable resources, information on the Internet can be inaccurate, outdated or offensive. The Library has dedicated Internet-accessible computers for use by children and teens at Main and branch libraries. The Library has a brochure, *Internet Use @ The Santa Monica Public Library: A Guide for Parents & Children* that explains our policy on children's use of the Internet at the Library and offers tips for online safety.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY CARDS

Library cards give children the opportunity to borrow and download a wide range of materials including books, magazines, sound recordings and DVDs. Library cards also provide access to electronic and online resources such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, databases, and streaming music and video. We hope that our Library will play a vital role in your child's life.

Library Cards for Children and Teens are Fine Free

There are no late fines charged to youth cardholders when they return materials late. This applies to all late fines on children's and teen accounts regardless of which materials they check out. Charges related to lost or damaged material are still applied.

All cardholders, regardless of age, have the right to access all materials in the library and to check out any circulating item. You, as a parent, have that right and responsibility for yourself and your child. The Library does not act *in loco parentis*. Therefore, staff will not monitor your child's selections or access to materials, including those on the Internet.

The Library is legally required to protect the confidentiality of all registration and circulation records. (*California Government Code, section 6267*). Staff can only give information about borrowing activity directly to the cardholder. This means that Library staff cannot tell you the specific titles your child has checked out on his or her card. Please ask your child for this information.

Parents or guardians are responsible for loss or damage of library materials checked out by minors. (*California Education Code, section 19911*). Only information on delinquent or billed items can be disclosed to you as the financially-responsible party.

Each library card is treated as a separate account and delinquency notices or replacement bills are sent directly to the cardholder. If money is owed on your child's account, the child's card privileges, not yours, may be restricted.

OTHER SERVICES

Programs: The Library offers a wide variety of programs for children and teens, including story times, craft programs, book discussions, and more. Online and printed calendars of events are available for details.

Parenting Collection: The Main Library has a special Parenting Collection, which includes an array of materials on general parenting, family and health issues, and education and learning topics.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

All Santa Monica library locations are staffed with professional youth services librarians. For more information, please contact the library closest to you.

Main Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. / 310-458-8621

Fairview Branch 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. / 310-458-8681

Montana Avenue Branch 1704 Montana Ave. / 310-458-8682

Ocean Park Branch 2601 Main Street / 310-458-8683

Pico Branch 2201 Pico Boulevard / 310-458-8684

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LIBRARY



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