Safe Child Policy

The Cortez Public Library welcomes use by children. Library staff members are trained to help children with library materials and services. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, comfort and behavior of their children in the library. Per the Library's Collection Development Policy, the reading and viewing activity of children in the library is the responsibility of parents or guardians, not library staff. The library does not have the facilities or staffing to provide childcare services.

For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy libraries, the following policy has been established:

- The children's area of the library is specifically designed to serve the needs of young patrons. Adults in that area not using children's materials or not accompanied by a child will be asked to use other areas of the library. Additionally, adults using children's materials may be asked to go to another part of the library.
- Children seven years of age or younger must have a parent or caregiver in the immediate vicinity and in visual sight of the child. Caregivers must be 15 years old or older.
- Older children, 8 to 12 years of age, may be left unattended for a maximum of two hours, but may be asked to leave if not following the Library's Code of Conduct.
- If a child under 12 years old is not picked up from the library at closing time, staff members will make an effort to contact the parents. If parents cannot be contacted, or cannot pick up the child within 5 minutes of contact, the child will be turned over to the Cortez Police Department.
- The Teen's area of the library is specifically designed to serve the needs of young adult patrons. Adults in that area not using YA materials or not accompanied by a child will be asked to use other areas of the library. Additionally, adults using YA materials may be asked to go to another part of the library.

Patrons who fail to abide by this policy may be banned from the library for periods of time deemed appropriate by the Library Director.