

STAY INFORMED

of your child's library checkouts

Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Responsibility for children's use of library materials rests with their parents or guardians. Wisconsin statute gives parents and guardians authority over their children's use of the public library prior to age 16.*

Libraries offer many tools and resources to support **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**.

Libraries help families find library materials that meet their needs and interests:

- Collection development policies ensure the library has varied materials that serve the whole community.
- Trained staff select materials and help families find the titles they want.
- Signs direct children, teens, and adults to appropriate collections.
- Library staff recommend books to support many needs, interests, and age levels.
- Libraries provide access to professional and consumer reviews to help parents and guardians determine which materials are appropriate for their child.

Many Wisconsin libraries have policies about children's library use, such as:

- Setting a minimum age for children to be in the library unattended by a parent or guardian.
- Requiring a parent or guardian to sign their child's library card application, which prevents a child from obtaining a library card without their permission.

Parents and guardians can see what their children have checked out:

- Parents and guardians can call, email, or visit the library to get their child's account information.
- Parents and guardians can view their children's accounts online, via the library's website and/or an app.
- Some libraries provide the option for parents and guardians to receive a text or email receipt when their child checks out materials, which includes the titles of those materials.



***Upon the request of a custodial parent or guardian of a child who is under the age of 16, a library supported in whole or part by public funds shall disclose to the custodial parent or guardian all library records relating to the use of the library's documents or other materials, resources, or services by that child.**

Wisconsin Statute 43.30(4)



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