



HARRISON DISTRICT LIBRARY



How old does a child have to be to get a library card at Harrison District Library?

That is a good question, and one the Harrison District Library staff has generally left up to the discretion of the parents of the child since the parents are in the best position to know when is the right time for that particular child. Some parents wait until the child is reading; some wait until the child is much older and more responsible. Until the child has his/her own driver's license, the parent must co-sign and is ultimately responsible for the materials checked out under the child's card. Materials checked out under a child's card must be materials appropriate for the child.

Whatever you decide, there are things parents can do to make the child's experience of having his/her own library card a success and to help the child learn what is involved in borrowing books from a library.

Here are a few book care tips that are simple, but will help foster good library book habits:

1. Have clean hands. ✓
2. Keep books away from food and drinks. ✓
3. Keep books away from water. ✓
4. Do not fold down pages at the top or bottom corner (dogear). ✓
5. Don't write in or tear pages in nooks. ✓
6. Keep away from toddlers and pets. ✓
7. Keep your books in a safe place at home. ✓
8. Use a bookmark to save your spot. ✓
9. Do not lend your book to a friend. ✓
10. Return books on time. ✓



Returning books on time—that can be a problem. If returning books on time becomes a chronic problem, it could eventually lead to discouragement and frustration. Besides, who wants to spend money needlessly?

Consider these suggestions:

1. Keep a detailed list of the books you borrow.

One of the hardest parts about borrowing from the library is that the books get scattered around the house. They're taken to various bedrooms at naptime, brought along for a car ride, or accidentally shelved with our personal collection. If you have taken out several books, it can be a huge headache!

Harrison District Library has an online system (www.harrisonsdistrictlibrary.org) that lists the books you have checked out. The librarian can also give you a printed list when you check out your books.

2. Create a home for your library books.

A list helps, but ideally, you should create a dedicated place for library books to live when they're not being read. This might be a dedicated shelf, a basket in the family room or a tote bag by the front door. The key is to put the books back each time they're read so that the pile is always ready to be returned. This makes it much easier to gather up the books to be returned to that it's not such a hassle to find them.

3. Go to the library regularly.

Another trick for returning library books on time and avoiding late fees is to simply go to the library regularly and commit to returning the previously borrowed books each time you go. Having a variety of books with different due dates just increases your chances of being late on some of them, and like anything else, creating a routine will make it easier on everyone.

4. Return books early.

Rather than holding books until the last day, get into the habit of returning them well before their due dates. When you set reminders or mark the date on your calendar, set it a week before the books are due. It's kind of like setting your clock ahead by five minutes—even though you know you've done it, it offers a cushion so that you can avoid being late.

5. Get techy with it.

It's one thing to be able to find the books you're looking for, but you can do even more than that on the computer. Books can be renewed on line! Just go to www.harrisonsdistrictlibrary.org and sign in using your library card and PIN (the last four digits of your phone number.) Not only can you renew books, you can also order books from other libraries if you have a full service card.