The Library Card "Talk"

When children get their first library card, the Children's Room staff talks with them about using the library. We try to make this "talk" as interactive and fun as possible. Our goal is not just to teach them about library rules, but also to show them that the library is a welcoming place and the librarians are happy to answer their questions. Please plan on 10-15 minutes for getting a first library card, that way we can focus on making your child's first library card a special experience.

To Be Filled Out by Parent or Guardian

I agree that my son/ daughter _____
age _____ can borrow materials from the Rochester Public Library, and I agree to be responsible for any fines and charges incurred.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

☐ I have read and accept the Privacy Policy stated in the Children's Library Card pamphlet.

Using Your Library Card:

- Children can borrow up to 10 items on their library card.
- Children may use their cards to borrow materials anywhere in the library. Materials in the Children's Room are purchased with infants through 14 year-olds in mind.
- The Children's Room has limits, for certain materials, on the number of items that can be borrowed at one time. They are:
  3 movies per card
  3 nonfiction items per subject
- Most books are checked out for 3 weeks, and movies are checked out for 1 week.
- Materials can be renewed one time, either by telephone or on-line. Sorry, but items with reserves cannot be renewed.
- All borrowing is free if materials are returned on time and in good condition.
- Overdue materials are fined at $0.20 per day per item to a maximum of $5.00 per item.
- Borrowers with overdue books, outstanding fines, or other fees will not be allowed to check out materials.

When the library is closed, books may be returned to the book drops by the library entrances. To prevent damage, audiovisual materials should not be placed in the book drops. Please return them when the library is open.

Children's Library Cards at the Rochester Public Library

Children can get their own Library Card:

- If they are a resident of Rochester or enrolled in the Rochester Public Schools.
- Are age 5 or above.
- Have a parent's signature on the registration form.
- Parents take full responsibility for all fines and damage fees on their children's cards.

When I write my name on this card, I promise to take good care of the books I use in the Library and at home, and to obey the rules of the Library.

Name:_____

Street Address:_____

Zip Code:_____ Phone #:_____

School:_____ Grade:_____

Age:_____ Birth date:_____

Children's Library Card Registration Form:

Children do not need to write their name to get a card, but we like them to have the experience of "signing" the registration form themselves.

It doesn't matter what the "signature" looks like, there's a space on the back of the form for you to write their name so we can read it!

The Rochester Public Library's Privacy Policy:

The Rochester Public Library follows RSA 201-D: 11 which provides ALL PATRONS, regardless of age, COMPLETE privacy of their borrowing records.

What does this mean for you and your child?

If you choose for your child to have their own library card, the library and library staff are prevented, BY LAW, from giving ANYONE else information about:

- what is currently checked out to them
- what they have on hold
- what they have borrowed in the past
- what they have overdue or billed

Please keep this information in mind when staff calls and asks for your son or daughter concerning reserves or overdue items. It is their job to keep this information confidential, and by signing for your child's library card you have agreed to abide by the policies set forth in this pamphlet.

We understand parent concerns about what their children are reading and encourage parents to visit the library with their children to help them choose materials. Because you are the best judge of what is appropriate for your family, the library staff will leave those decisions to you, and will check out any materials a child brings to the desk.

We appreciate your understanding.

How Can Parents Work With The Library Under This Law?

We understand that some parents will be concerned about such privacy being given to their young children, and that although fines are still your responsibility, we cannot legally tell you what items are out. There are a few ways we can work together so your child can enjoy having their own card while still giving parents some control.

- The law allows staff to release title information to another person if we have "consent of the user". In other words, if your child tells us to inform you of titles then we can do so.
- Be an active part of your child's Library visit and participate in their choice of materials.
- Library card accounts can be checked at any time from your home computer by going to www.rpl.lib.nh.us
- Please work with your children to determine what books they have out; when overdue notices are sent they are addressed to your child and list all items owed.
- You may decide that your child is not old enough for this responsibility, and you may choose to take out materials for your children on your card only.
- Please be aware that children who come to the library alone will need their own card, as we do not allow people to use each other's library cards.