



## Special Note to Parents and Guardians of Minor Children

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Getting a library card is an important step in a child's journey towards responsibility. Parents and guardians can play a crucial role by monitoring a child's library card use in order to avoid incurring significant costs for late and lost items. The parent or guardian, who signed the application, is financially responsible for library overdue fines and lost fees.

Milwaukee Public Library does not charge overdue fines for MPL-owned books checked out on a child's card, but fines are charged for CDs and DVDs. All cardholders, including children, are billed for the replacement cost of any items not returned within 28 days of the due date.

### **Here are some suggestions for parents and guardians:**

- Consider keeping your children's library cards in your possession, handing them out only when the children are visiting the library.
- Parents can use the library card to teach their children responsibility by permitting one or two items to be checked out at a time in the beginning. If the child is responsible about taking care of the borrowed items and getting them back on time, the parents can increase the child's library credit line; allowing them to check out more items each time.
- Although children, who are residents of the City of Milwaukee, do not incur fines on MPL owned books, fines are charged for CDs, DVDs and items owned by other municipalities. Media fines and replacement costs can add up quickly. In order to avoid these charges, closely monitor the number of media items checked out by children, and pay close attention to due dates.
- Caution children against lending library items to friends, or checking things out for them.
- Children's accounts are treated the same as adult accounts for collections purposes. However, the adult who signed the application is credit reported when an account balance remains unresolved, not the child whose name is on the library card.