Your Child's Library Card

What Every Parent Should Know

The Cary Library, in compliance with Massachusetts State Law and with American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, protects the privacy of library users. This means that the personal information and reading history of our cardholders may not be shared with anyone but the library cardholder, even if the cardholder is a minor. We recognize that this policy can be challenging for parents who are trying to manage their children's library cards, so here's some information we hope will help.

Accessing Your Child's Library Card Information

When a library card is issued, a password is established for the account. The library card number and password may be used to access library account information online. Some of the things you can do online (24/7):

- See a list of what is currently checked out on the card
- Renew library materials (unless someone else is waiting for the item)
- Place reserves on materials
- Download eBooks and eAudio books
- Pay overdue fines or lost book fees using a credit card

We will also ask for an email address where notices regarding due dates, renewals, and reserves will be sent. Library cards may have more than one email address listed, and all notices will be sent to all accounts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Children may request to change their password, email address, or library card number at any time. If this happens, parents should ask their child for updated information in order to access the account. Library staff cannot access the account password and will not update card information without the child present.

Using Your Child's Library Card

If you want to check out items on your child's card or pick up a reserve placed on a child's card without the child present you can do this in one of two ways:

Bring a physical or electronic copy of the child's library card with you.

- Since all new library cards are issued with a duplicate "key chain" card, many parents keep copies of all their children's cards on their key chains.
- If you are able to login to the child's account in a mobile browser, you can display the barcode found under Your Account > Your Library Card.
- Parents and caregivers may also load copies of library cards onto a barcode keeper or loyalty card management app.

Bring a copy of the current Library Request Pickup Notice. You may either bring a printed copy or you may show the email on your phone.

Accessing Public Computers

Your child's library card may be used to access the library's public internet computers or to check out laptop computers for use in the building. Please be aware that the library does not filter internet access on public computers.