

**PRESENCE OF CHILDREN ON CAMPUS**

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**POLICY**

Ridgewater College, as an institution of higher education, must seek to preserve conditions that permit a proper environment for learning and working. Ridgewater College recognizes that children might accompany an adult to campus for a brief visit. Except for approved visitation purposes, students, faculty and staff may not bring children to campus. For approved visitations, children must be under the supervision of their parent(s), or a supervising adult, at all times. Asking members of the college community to assume responsibility of caring for the children of others, or to expect the children can accompany them to class, is prohibited.

Children shall not be present at an employee's workplace (e.g. office, classroom, shop, etc.) in lieu of other child care arrangements, during the employee's working hours. Exceptions may be granted for a specified and very limited period of time by the appropriate supervisor. Under such circumstances, the parent/accompanying adult is solely responsible for the child. Children on campus without the proper supervision may disrupt the educational process or work setting. Leaving the children unsupervised may also create a safety hazard for the children themselves or for others on the college campus.

The presence of children in a classroom (non-lab setting) may be permitted by an instructor. Children are not allowed in areas where dangerous equipment is operated and/or where chemicals, cleaning products, solvents or any hazardous products are stored or used.

In certain circumstances, children may be on campus for classes/activities held for their benefit (Summer Camp, Family Fun Night, etc.). At such times, it is expected that the instructor or responsible adult will supervise the activities of the children and that before and after the class an area will be designated for the children to await parents' arrival. It is the responsibility of the supervisor/instructor of these activities to explain restrictions to children and to monitor and enforce when necessary.

In all circumstances, good judgment will be exercised to prevent disruption of the college functions and provide safety for children visiting the campus. If you have questions about this policy, you should speak with Human Resources or the Dean of Students.

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*History:*

*03.26.09 Adopted*

*12.28.21 Proposed; Reviewed for Equity Compliance*

*08.12.22 Revised*