

## **Unattended Children**

Children of all ages are encouraged to visit the Library with their parents or caregivers to enjoy the resources available. The Library Advisory Board and Library Staff emphasize that a child's health, safety, and behavior while in the Library are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. While the Board and Staff are sympathetic to those families who have difficulty finding appropriate child care, the Library cannot assume that level of responsibility for children.

Children who patronize the Library should be encouraged to learn appropriate use of Library resources, and while in the Library, they should show respect to other people they may encounter.

Children age seven (7) and younger must be accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver age sixteen (16) or older at all times.

Children age eight (8) to twelve (12) may be in the Library without a parent or caregiver if:

- attending a scheduled, supervised library function;
- working on a research project / school assignment;
- selecting library materials for checkout; or,
- reading.

In the above situations, a parent or caregiver must be immediately available should any problem arise. If, in the judgment of Library staff, an unattended child requires parental supervision, staff will notify the child's parent or caregiver or the appropriate authorities.

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for keeping unattended children within the Library building or for the safety of children once they leave the Library.

Library staff cannot provide transportation for a child. In case of an emergency involving an unattended child, Library staff will call 911 and report to the authorities that the child's caregiver is not present.