Unsupervised Children

**Purpose:** Create guidelines for parents and guardians that will result in a positive library experience.

**Background:** Unsupervised children can represent a safety and liability risk in public facilities. A clear understanding of parents’ and guardians’ responsibilities can help ensure a safe and rewarding library experience for children.

**Policy:**

The library is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment to all visitors.

Children are especially welcome to use library resources and to enjoy our facility. However, the library cannot assume responsibility for the care and safety of unsupervised children. The library is in no sense an after-school or day-care facility. In the best interests of the children, parents should make regular after-school or day-care arrangements for children who cannot go home after school. A list of local resources is available from the children’s librarian.

**When the library is open:**

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Older brothers, sisters, or caretakers under the age of 18 are not considered adult guardians or adequate supervisors.

Children are subject to the same library behavior policy as other visitors. Behaviors that are disruptive or interfere with others’ ability to use our services and materials are prohibited. Parents of a disruptive or unsupervised child may be asked to remove the child from the library.

**At closing time**

If a child is left unattended at closing time, staff will make a reasonable effort to locate a parent or guardian. If unable to do so, library staff will contact the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety of the child.