



## **Unattended Children Policy**

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The Naperville Public Library welcomes and encourages the use of its services and facilities by children. Staff members are committed to helping children find materials which meet their needs, providing a welcoming environment, and planning and presenting programs that enrich, inform and entertain. Library facilities, however, are not licensed or designed to provide basic childcare needs such as physical exercise, nutrition, direct supervision, or emergency care.

Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended even for brief periods of time. Staff members cannot know or be responsible if children are leaving the building with responsible caregivers or with strangers. When a child is left at the library without a parent or caregiver, the child's boredom, fatigue, or fear may lead to behavior that disrupts the services the library staff provides for them and for others.

Naperville Public Library encourages parents and caregivers to consider the safety and well-being of their children, as in any other public place, and the needs of other Library users of all ages.

### **Provisions**

Parents and caregivers are responsible for their children in the library, whether or not the parent or caregiver is present. All Library customers are expected to follow the General Rules of Conduct and exhibit behavior that does not interfere with the ability for others to use the Library comfortably.

Children under age 8 must be under the supervision of a parent or other responsible caregiver (age 14 or older) at all times in the library.

If an unattended child is disrupting others or asks for help finding their adult, Library staff will make every effort to find that child's responsible parent or caregiver. Staff will ask the parent or caregiver to stay with and supervise the child.

If a child under the age of 14 is found unattended at closing, Library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent, guardian, or caregiver. If no contact can be made, two Library employees will stay with the child for 15 minutes after closing. If a responsible adult has not picked up the child at that time, Naperville Police will be called to assist in helping the child.

### **Revision History**

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