

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The Field Library welcomes children of all ages, and encourages them to make use of the resources that the library has to offer. The library staff strives to ensure that the library is operated in a safe manner. The objective reality, however, is that the library is open to the public and may present hazards for unattended children.

- The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children in the library and on library property rests with the children's parents, guardian or other responsible caregiver. The library and its staff are not responsible for the care, safety and behavior of children in the library or on library property or for any consequences resulting from the children being in the library or on library property.
- Children under age ten must be accompanied and supervised continually by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver at least fourteen years of age who is able to attend to the children's care and safety and ensure appropriate behavior. A parent, guardian or caregiver must remain with the child at all times unless the child is attending a program exclusively for children; during the program, the parent, guardian or caregiver must remain in the library.
- If an unaccompanied child under the age of ten is found in the library, library staff will attempt to locate his/her parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver in the library. If the parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be found, the police may be contacted. Library staff will not provide transportation for children left unaccompanied in the library.
- If an unaccompanied child aged ten is asked to leave the library due to violations of Library policies, rules, regulations or an unexpected library closing, library staff will attempt to locate his/her parent, guardian or caregiver. If the parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be found, the police may be contacted. Library staff will not provide transportation for children left unaccompanied in the library.
- Children must follow the library's rules and are expected to use the library in a manner that does not interfere with its purpose or other patrons' use of the library. Children whose behavior is disruptive may be asked to leave and may have library privileges suspended.
- The library staff will not provide food, transportation or money to children. They will not take responsibility for a child in the event of a medical emergency, however they will call the appropriate medical emergency help.
- The library sometimes does not open as scheduled, or closes without advance notice due to weather or other emergencies. Parents or guardians may not receive notice of an unexpected closure. However, parents or guardians of unattended children must be aware that the library staff will not be responsible for unattended children.

Adopted by The Field Library Board of Trustees January, 2013