

## Unattended Children Policy

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, comfort and behavior of their children while in the library. **Your child must come to the library with a responsible person and stay in that person's care during the child's stay.** In the library, we require that all responsible caregivers keep children age 9 and younger within their line of sight and ensure that those children follow the library rules.

Any of the following situations, and others as determined by library staff, will result in staff attempting to contact the child's parent or guardian. If that is not successful, the child will be placed in the care of the appropriate law enforcement agency.

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- A child is alone and frightened or crying in the library;
  - A child is alone and doing something dangerous, or another person in the library seems to be a danger to the child;
  - A child is alone and is not following library rules;
  - No caregiver comes to pick a child up at closing time; or
  - Any child under the age of 10 9 and younger who is alone in the library or unaccompanied by a responsible adult or sibling over the age of 11 and older in the library. If a child is part of a group and if a minor caregiver (must be over age 11) is unable to adequately perform these tasks, library staff may request that an adult accompanying the group assume responsibility. (Please see Oregon City Public Library Behavior Rules.)

Green highlighted text is the suggested language we added in December

Blue highlighted texts are Youth Services Dept suggestions to make language consistent throughout policy