

Unattended Child Policy

The Youth Services Department of the Indian Valley Public Library strives to foster a love of learning and reading in the young people we serve. Children and families are encouraged to use and enjoy the library.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of children using the library is of utmost concern to the Youth Services Staff. Young children left alone while parents or caregivers are using other parts of the library often become frightened or anxious. **Our staff is happy to serve children of all ages, but they cannot supervise children adequately while carrying out their work responsibilities.** This policy seeks to address these concerns in a responsible manner.

It is not our intention to seek out unattended children but rather to have a reasoned response prepared as situations present themselves. The ages listed below are meant as a minimum requirement and not a definitive rule. In order to protect the safety of children and families, persons in violation of this policy may be subjected to consequences as outlined in our Behavior Policy.

As children mature at different rates, their ability to be in the library independently of their parents or caregivers depends entirely on their ability to act responsibly in a library setting.

1. Children ages 9 and under must be in view of a parent or guardian while using the library. This includes attending library programs.
2. Children ages 10 to 12 may use the library independently. However a parent or caregiver must remain in the building at all times.
3. Children ages 13 and over may be in the library on their own but should have an appropriate way to contact a parent or caregiver if the need arises.
4. Parents and caregivers should check library hours to ensure that children are not left unattended when the library closes. Library staff are not able to accompany or drive children home. If children are unattended at closing time and cannot reach a parent or caregiver at closing time, the police will be contacted to take custody of the child(ren).

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