

## Luther Area Public Library

### Unattended Children Policy

The Luther Area Public Library staff members are available to assist children with library materials or services. However, the library is not equipped, and it is not the library's role, to provide long or short-term child-care. Parents and guardians of children using the library must assume responsibility for the safety, behavior, and materials accessed by their children whether the parent or guardian is present in the library or is absent.

Because children develop and mature at different rates, there is no magic age at which all children are ready to cope with the variety of circumstances they may face alone in the library. Children may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity.

However, parents and guardians should be aware that a library is a public facility and individuals from all walks of society make use of the facilities. Staff will not be responsible if unattended children leave the library premises alone or with other persons. Further, staff will not be responsible for children who may be asked to leave the library if the child is in violation of library policy.

#### Contact with Parent or Guardian for Unattended Children

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian when:

- the health or safety of an unattended child is in doubt
- if the child is frightened while alone in the library
- the behavior of the unattended child violates library policy
- when the child is not picked up by closing time and needs assistance procuring transportation

Emergency situations may force the library to close without warning. All children must have the telephone number of someone to call for transportation, if the need arises.

Unattended children must be picked up at least 10 minutes before closing time. If the child's parent or guardian cannot be located within 15 minutes after closing time, the police will be called. Children will not be left alone in the library or on the library grounds. A library staff member will wait with the child until the child's parent or guardian, or the police arrives. The library staff member will fill out an Incident Report to be given to the Director.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LIBRARY STAFF TRANSPORT OR TAKE THE UNATTENDED CHILD AWAY FROM THE LIBRARY BUILDING.**

### Pet Policy

Only service animals directly assisting persons with disabilities are allowed in the library unless they are part of a library program. Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the American Disabilities Act and are not allowed in the library.