

## Unattended Children Policy

Children are a very high priority at the LaRue County Public Library and we are concerned about their safety and welfare. Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to use the materials, services, and programs of the library. However, this is a public building and the well being and safety of children left on their own is a serious concern. Therefore, children under the age of 12 should not be left alone on the library's premises.

- Children through the ages of 8 should have a parent or responsible caregiver in the immediate vicinity unless the children are participating in a library program.
- Children 8-11 should have a parent or responsible caregiver in the building.

The staff and the board of trustees of the LaRue County Public Library are not responsible for monitoring the activities and controlling the behavior of unattended children in the library. Staff members will not assume responsibility for any child in the absence of an adult even for a short time. Under no circumstances will a staff member transport children home or to any other destination.

If a child is left unattended and is deemed to be at risk to harm (for example, no one to pick them up at closing time), a reasonable effort will be made to locate the caregiver. However, if necessary, appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities will be notified to take custody of the child.

We respect the privacy of all library patrons and will intervene only when, in our opinion, the safety and well being of a child is threatened.

If a child is left unattended:

1. A copy of the Unattended Children Policy will be given to the parent/guardian.
2. Library staff will document that the policy was given to the parent/guardian.
3. Documentation will be given to the Director and kept on file.