



UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

(3/12/13)

The Riverside Public Library welcomes the use of its services and facilities by children and youth. Library staff is committed to:

- Helping children and youth find materials for school work and recreational reading
- Providing an environment that encourages study and exploration
- Planning programs that inform, enrich and entertain
- Teaching children the joy of books and reading

Staff is also concerned for the well-being and safety of children and youth. However, our Library is not designed or licensed to provide basic child care needs. Any public place may be dangerous to a child left unattended and the Library encourages patrons to consider the safety and welfare of their children while at the Library.

The Riverside Public Library is not responsible for children or youth left unattended. Children under the age of 7 must not be left alone in the Library; a responsible caregiver (age 12 or older) must be in attendance in the same department of the Library. Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children whether or not they are present.

Children over 7 years old, if left alone, must be involved in a Library program or have Library related or research needs. All children must have the ability to contact a responsible person for transportation needs.

Children and Youth are subject to the Library's policy on **Use of Library Facilities; Exclusion of Patrons for Inappropriate Behavior.**

Parents or guardians are responsible for picking up their children prior to the Library closing. Under no circumstance will a staff member drive any patron home. If the Library is closing and the parents of unattended children under the age of 12 cannot be located, the staff will contact the police to assume custody and responsibility of the child from the Library premises.

Reviewed and Approved by the Riverside Board of Trustees March 12, 2013
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