

Unattended Children

The Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. However, the responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver and not with Library staff members. Public libraries, by their nature, are not necessarily safe for unattended children.

Children under eight years of age shall not be left unattended in the Library under any circumstances. They must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or caregiver. A caregiver must be at least twelve years of age. Parents/guardians, if delegating their responsibilities to a caregiver, must ensure the caregiver is a responsible person of suitable age.

A parent/guardian or caregiver must remain with the child during the entire time period in the Library, and must directly supervise the child.

Library staff members may contact the Lake Bluff Police or other authorities, such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in the event a child seven years of age or under is left unattended in the Library, or the parent/guardian or caregiver fails to directly supervise the child; for example, by leaving the child alone in the Children's Room.

In the case of children over age seven, parents may be notified, at the determination of the Library Director or a senior staff member, if an unaccompanied minor's behavior in the Library is a problem. Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and are subject to the same consequences, including being asked to leave the Library.

At Library closing time, or in the event of an early closing due to inclement weather, etc., if unattended children are still in the building, the local Police Department will be called to take custody of the children. Two staff members must stay with the child until he/she is in the custody of an appropriate caretaker.

**Source: Policy Manual for Lake Bluff Public Library
Approved by the Board of Library Trustees
March 10, 2009**