



Unattended Child Policy

The Natchitoches Parish Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. In order to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the library system, and in order to provide for the general safety of children using the library, responsibility and accountability for the general welfare of any child rests with the parent (guardian or care giver assigned by the parent) and not with the library personnel. The safety of all children left alone in the library is a serious concern.

8 OR YOUNGER MAY NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE LIBRARY.

They must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible person – an adult or mature adolescent (16 years of age or older).

9-10 YEAR OLDS MAY BE IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA UNATTENDED WITH RESPONSIBLE PARTY IN THE BUILDING AT ALL TIMES.

11 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER MAY BE LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE LIBRARY.

Parents (guardian or care giver assigned by the parent) are responsible for their child's behavior while in the library. Disruptive behavior, as defined in the library's behavior policy, is not allowed.

During children's programs, a parent or responsible party must remain in the Children's Department.

No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. Therefore, it is recommended that all children be accompanied by a parent or responsible party when visiting the library.

A staff member shall try to identify and locate the parents or responsible party for an unattended child who appears lost or frightened. If the responsible party cannot be located within 30 minutes, law enforcement officials shall be contacted.

Children should be picked up before closing. If a child is left unattended at closing time, law enforcement will be contacted immediately.

Library employees are not allowed to drive children home.