

Unattended Children Policy

The Palisades Park Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use, the following policy regarding appropriate use of the library by children and their caregivers is adopted.

- Children 8 years of age or younger must be **continually attended** by a parent or adult caregiver while in the library.
- Children attending programs are supervised by the library staff only during the scheduled time of the program

If a child under the age of 8 is found to be without adult supervision library staff will attempt to contact the child's parent(s). If contact with a parent cannot be made, Palisades Park police will be notified.

Children over the age of 8 may use the library unattended provided that their behavior is not disruptive. Disruptive behavior is any form of behavior that seriously or constantly disturbs patrons or staff; damages library property; interferes with library service; or endangers the well-being of the disruptive child or others(**see "Library Code of Conduct" for examples of conduct not allowed on Library property**). Parents are responsible for the actions of their children in the library whether or not the parent is present. Parents will also be responsible for any disturbance or damage done to the library by their child.

Disruptive children, older than 8 years will be asked to leave the library for the day. If they refuse or return to the building the same day they have been asked to leave, the police will be called. The child will then be banned from the Library for one month and the police will contact the parent.

Parents and caregivers should be familiar with the library's hours of operation and should not leave children before opening or after closing. Also, close attention must be paid to unexpected closings (storms, power outages, etc.). Prior arrangements and contingency plans for IMMEDIATE pick-up should be discussed with the child. The library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closed but will make attempts to reach a parent or caregiver for immediate pick-up. The police department will be notified of any child has been left too long or repeatedly in this unsafe situation.