

## UNATTENDED CHILDREN

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The Avon Lake Public Library and property are open to the public. To ensure the safety and well-being of children in the Library, and to maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use throughout the building, the responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children using the Library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

Library staff does not monitor the interaction of patrons, including children. Though staff will respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when unattended.

The Library defines "unattended children" as those under the age of eight (8) years who are without close supervision even though a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver may be in the building. The Library defines a "responsible caregiver" as a person twelve (12) years of age or older who acknowledges responsibility for the children.

Children under the age of eight (8) years are to be in sight of and supervised, at all times, by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Parents/guardians or caregivers are expected to remain in the Library while children attend programs. Children eight (8) years of age and older who can maintain proper library behavior may use the Library unattended; otherwise, they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

Staff may notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision. Staff may also contact the police to enforce proper library conduct.

At closing, staff will make a reasonable effort to ensure that children leave the Library safely. Staff may contact the Avon Lake Police Department to provide safe transport.