

Children Left Unattended at the Library

The Lake County staff and Board of Trustees hope that the children who use our library will perceive our facilities as a warm, inviting and fun place to be. Service and programs are offered to make the library enticing to children and to help them enjoy their visits and develop a love of books, reading and libraries.

But, when children are left unattended for several hours, they often become bored and disruptive.

Each year in the United States, over 50,000 children are abducted and never found. Young children may not be safe when left unattended in the library. The staff cannot know if children are leaving the building with parents or strangers. For the protection and well being of children who enjoy our library, the following policy has been established.

POLICY

1. It is the responsibility of parents to assure the appropriate behavior of their children while in the library.
2. All children 8-years and younger must be attended and adequately supervised by an accompanying responsible person. "Responsible person" refers to an adult or mature adolescent, over the age of 14, other than library personnel.
3. The library staff is ***not responsible*** for the supervision of children left unattended at the library after closing. (Note point #5)
4. Lake County Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the library after closing. (Note point #5)
5. When children under 12 are asked to leave the library and parents cannot be contacted to pick them up, the Lake County Department of Social Services will be contacted to assume responsibility.
6. A payphone is the only available public telephone at the library. Parents are advised to pre-arrange a time to pick-up children from the library, or to provide correct and adequate monetary change for payphone use.