

## **Unattended Children Policy**

Libraries are a public space. This policy conforms to the Child and Family Services Act that states children under age 10 should not be left alone. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children under 10 years of age are safe. Young babies and small children must be looked after at all times.

Caregivers must be aware and responsible for the actions of children in their care while in the library. Adults must be actively engaged in supervising children under the age of ten (10) which involves the following:

- Staying in the same room or area of the library with children under the age of ten (10)
- Preventing children from running, climbing, yelling, throwing things or other disruptive behavior
- Working with children on the computers

A caregiver must be age 13 to accompany a child under age ten (10).

A caregiver who leaves the child in one area of the library while visiting another is considered to be in violation of this policy. This extends to all areas of the library and includes the parking lot, the meeting room, restrooms, and the adult areas.

## **Supervision of Children**

The goal of the Romeo District Library is to provide a positive library experience for children and their families. Anyone using the library must observe the Library's Rules of Conduct and adhere to the Library's Unattended Children's Policy which conforms to state law. For their own protection, young children may not be left unattended in the library. The library staff is not responsible for providing supervision. Adults must be aware and responsible for the actions of children in their care while in the library. Adults must be actively engaged in supervising children under the age of ten (10).

## **After Library Closing**

For your child's protection, your child under age 18 (legal age of majority in Michigan) must be picked up by library closing time. Minors who are not picked up by closing may be referred to the police for their safety.

## **Unsafe Conditions**

A parent or caregiver who feels the child in their protection is either in an unsafe situation or has been inappropriately contacted by a stranger should report this to library staff as soon as possible. The library is not responsible for unreported events. Staff will take appropriate actions to ensure the safety of the child. The incident may be referred to police. The safety of library users and staff is always the primary consideration.