

Unattended Children Policy East Bonner County Library District

The East Bonner County Free Library District welcomes library use by children. Staff members are available to assist children with library materials and services. The Library is dedicated to providing a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages. The Library, however, is a public facility with staff trained to provide public library services. The Library is not equipped, nor is it licensed, to provide long- or short-term childcare.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver should always accompany children while they are using the library. The Board's policy affirms that the library staff cannot take the place of the parent, act as caregiver or babysitter, or assume responsibility for an unattended child. Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children while in the library and on library property.

Library staff members will be guided by this policy in situations, such as

- An unattended child is found frightened or crying;
- An unattended child is perceived to be endangering himself or herself;
- Another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child;
- An unattended child exhibits specific inappropriate behavior that is not in compliance with the Library Code of Conduct;
- An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the East Bonner County Library District's "**Library Code of Conduct**".

After evaluating a situation, library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of local law enforcement. ***Please refer to "Unattended or Abused Child Guidelines" in Procedures Manual.

Adopted 01-14-2002
Revised 03-13-2006
Reaffirmed 02-10-2014
Board of Trustees
East Bonner County Library District