

## **Unattended Children Policy East Bonner County Library District**

The East Bonner County Free Library District welcomes library use by children, and 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.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children while in the Library and on Library property. 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 baby-sitter, or assume responsibility for an unattended child.

The Library will not attempt to regulate the age at which a child may safely and appropriately use the Library without a parent or caregiver present. The responsibility for such a determination rests with the parent or caregiver.

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's Code of Conduct;
- An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time;
- An unattended child is monopolizing staff time.

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

After evaluating a situation, library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of an unattended child. Two staff members will remain with an unattended child up to 15 minutes past closing time. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the child will be placed in the care of local law enforcement.

Adopted 01-14-2002  
Revised 03-13-2006  
Reaffirmed 02-10-2014  
Revised & Affirmed 08-08-2022  
Board of Trustees  
East Bonner County Library District