

Unattended Child Policy

The Leeds Jane Culbreth Library welcomes all children to use our facilities and services. However, responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone - not with library personnel. Staff members are concerned when parents leave their young children alone or in the care of an older sibling or friend. Young children left unattended, even for a few minutes, can become frightened. An older child left in charge can be easily burdened by this responsibility. Sometimes children stay at the library for many hours or wait here after school until a parent picks them up. Often they become bored and restless, which leads to disruptive behavior, and interferes with the legitimate library business of other patrons and staff.

Staff members cannot be placed in a position of supervising children who are too young to be unattended, or whose behavior indicates that they have stayed at the library for too long a time. For the safety and protection of youth, and for the benefit of all, the Leeds Jane Culbreth Library Board of Trustees has developed the following rules:

- The library assumes no responsibility for an unattended child. Parents should not view the library as an alternative to daycare. Unlike a daycare facility, the library is not a closed environment. Staff members cannot monitor everyone who enters, and all adult patrons are free to use any public area within the library.
- For the sake of safety, children under the age of 12 years old are not allowed to be left unattended in the library for any period of time. Parents/guardian should be advised that if their children misbehave, the guardian will be called. If a parent/guardian cannot be located, the authorities will be notified and the child will be handed over to the proper authorities. Parents should further realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children's behavior. Proper authorities/police will be called if the children are disruptive and/or left attended for extended periods of time.