

Palos Park Public Library

UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

The Palos Park Public Library welcomes children to the Library. Library staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children and to helping them find educational and recreational materials; providing an environment that encourages study and intellectual curiosity and providing programs that inform, enrich and entertain.

The Library, however, is not licensed or designed to provide basic care needs such as physical exercise, nutrition, or emergency care, nor are they to be used as an alternative shelter for children. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the library staff to guarantee a safe environment.

The library encourages parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users of all ages. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library, whether or not the parent is present. Parents may not leave children aged nine or under unattended in the library

If it is determined that a child under the age of 9 years is lost or unattended staff will ask the child where the parent is and attempt to locate the child's parent or caregiver.

If a parent or caregiver is not found in the building, staff will call the parent and request that they pick up their child. Staff will obtain the phone number from the child or through the circulation database if necessary.

If the parents cannot be reached within 30 minutes, or if they do not respond in 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility.

If it is determined that a child under age 14 is left unattended at closing time staff will call a parent or adult caregiver. At least two staff members will stay with the child until the parents arrive; if after 15 minutes, the parents do not arrive, staff members will call the police and wait with the child until the police arrive. Staff that must wait will be paid for the time. Staff members are not allowed to drive children home.

Approved March 16, 2016
Library Board of Trustees