

POLICY: UNATTENDED CHILDREN/CHILD SAFETY

The Yorktown Public Library is a public facility that offers services to a wide range of citizens, and children are especially welcome. The library has the responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities. Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of patron conduct expected of adults. Parents, guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library.

Children under the age of twelve should never be left unsupervised in any area of the library.

Library staff members will take the actions outlined below in these or similar situations:

- A child is alone and frightened or crying in the library
- A child is alone and doing something dangerous, or another person in the library seem to be a danger to the child
- A child is alone and not following library rules
- Any child under the age of twelve is alone in the library
- Any child using the library during school time without an adult present

Library staff will evaluate the above situations and try to contact the child's parent or guardian. If staff cannot reach the parent or guardian, they will place the child in the care of the appropriate local law enforcement.

Older children who are disruptive or misbehaving will be asked to leave the library; see policy on "Library Behavior". If the child cannot safely leave the library to return home on his or her own, staff will either allow the child to remain at the library under close supervision until a parent can be contacted or will contact the Yorktown Police Department depending on the severity of the situation.

Children who are old enough to be in the library on their own will be asked about transportation approximately 15 minutes prior to the library's closing. Children who have not been picked up at closing time will be given the opportunity to call a parent or other responsible adult. Children who have not been picked up within fifteen minutes after closing will be left in the care of Yorktown Police Department. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.