

**UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

The Warrenville Public Library District welcomes children of all ages. It is a doorway through which life-long learning take place. The public library is however, just that, a public building. As such, anybody can come into it, law-abiding or otherwise.

Library staff has many duties to perform in order to serve all citizens of Warrenville and are not able to monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each patron, including children. Parents are responsible for their children in the Library. A child could be tempted to go off with a stranger, become ill, or become lost. The following policy has been adopted:

- A. Children seven years of age and younger may not be left unattended in the Library. They must be under the direct supervision (within sight) of a parent or other adult when in the Library including when using a computer or playing in the puzzle area. Exceptions to this policy occur when programming requires children to attend on their own. At these times, children should be brought to the meeting room door prior to the program and be met outside the door at its conclusion. Do not expect one child to supervise another in the Library.
- B. Children ages 8-12 may be left in the Library unattended for brief periods of time provided they demonstrate purposeful intent to use Library resources, and that their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or Library staff. Staff will warn children if their behavior is not acceptable and they may be ordered to leave the building if behavior does not improve.
- C. Parents are responsible for the conduct of minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library or on Library grounds.
- D. If the Library is closing and an unattended child is left at the Library without transportation home, Library staff will allow the child to call home to remind their parents to pick them up. If the child is unable to contact his/her parents, Library Staff will remain no longer than 15 minutes after closing. At that time, local law authorities will be contacted and the child will be placed in their care. Under no circumstances shall a staff member drive a child home. Every effort will be made by staff to make certain all children have a ride arranged prior to closing.