

Unattended Child Policy

The Vestal Public Library encourages children to use its facilities and services. The safety of children is of highest importance to the Library, and children may be at risk when left unattended. The Library does not act in place of the parents, and Library employees have many duties and cannot supervise children or guarantee their safety. The Library cannot be held liable for any incidents, accidents, or other consequences resulting from the actions of unattended children.

Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed in regards to the care and behavior of children:

- Children under the age of 11 must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of the child at all times. The parent/caregiver must be at least 14 years old.
 - If a child under the age of 11 is found unattended, Library staff will attempt to find the parent/caregiver and inform him/her of the Unattended Child Policy. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found on Library property, Library staff will attempt to contact the parent/caregiver via telephone.
 - If a child under the age of 11 is with a parent/caregiver, but is not being supervised, Library staff will inform the parent/caregiver that he/she must supervise the child. If the parent/caregiver still does not supervise the child after two warnings, the parent/caregiver and the child will be asked to leave the Library.
- Children age 11 and older are allowed to use the library unattended, but should have emergency contact information available. The parent/caregiver is still responsible for the behavior and wellbeing of the child, and the child may be asked to leave the Library if the child is loud, disruptive, or is not following Library rules.
- If a child, age 11-17, has not been picked up from the Library by closing time, two Library staff members will remain with the child and the parent/caregiver will be contacted via telephone. If the parent/caregiver does not arrive or cannot be reached within 15 minutes, Library staff will contact the Vestal Police Department for assistance.