

3.11 UNATTENDED CHILDREN

1. The Library strives to be a pleasant place for all children to visit and use its many resources. The staff is always ready to help and be of service to any child with activities related to the Library. However, librarians do not have “in loco parentis” authority or responsibility and staff cannot be responsible for unattended children. The Library is an open and public building. Staff cannot assume responsibility for the supervision and safety of children. It is a parent’s responsibility to closely supervise and provide for the safety of their children. For the welfare of all children who visit, parents must use the following guidelines when bringing children to the Library.

- a. Children who are not yet in third grade must always be under the supervision of a responsible person who is present at all times in the Library. A responsible person is an adult or a child who is in sixth grade or higher. When a young child, not yet in third grade is attending a program, a responsible person must remain in the Library during the program.
- b. Unattended children in third grade and up are free to utilize the Library subject to other Library rules and policies and provided their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members. The Library Board asserts that it is the responsibility of the parent to insure the appropriate behavior of their children in the Library. The Library encourages parents to consider the safety of their minor children, as well as the well-being and needs of other Library patrons and to talk with their minor children about appropriate behavior in the Library. It is not the Library’s responsibility to provide child care. Children whose behavior causes a problem for staff or other patrons will receive a warning, and if their behavior persists, they will be asked to leave the Library.

2. When the Library is closing and a child of any age needs to telephone to be picked up, the child may use the telephone at the KidSpace desk.

3. If a child under eighth grade is discovered to be unaccompanied at Library closing, an attempt will be made to contact the parents. If the parents cannot be contacted within fifteen minutes, a representative of the Library will contact the police department to assist in handling the situation.

*Adopted by the Niles Public Library District Board of Trustees 7.1.92;
Revised 12.18.02; 4.16.09; 11.18.15; 11.15.17*