

Ann Arbor District Library  
Unattended Child Policy

The Ann Arbor District Library wants children who use our libraries to find them warm, inviting, enjoyable and secure.

To ensure their complete safety, children should be attended by a responsible party. Children left unattended in the library and not involved in a program may become restless, frightened, hungry, sick, or lonely.

For the protection and well-being of children using our libraries, the following policy has been established.

I. Policy

- A. The responsibility for children using the library rests not with the library staff but with the parent/guardian/assigned chaperone. (\*The American Heritage Dictionary defines “parent” as the “one who best begets, gives birth to, or nurtures and raises a child...”)
- B. A child under 6 years of age or an older child who, because of evident stress or special circumstances, may need constant assistance, must be attended by a parent/guardian/assigned chaperone who is in close physical proximity at all times while in any Ann Arbor District Library building.
- C. Disruptive behavior by children shall be dealt with following Policy 5.1 Behavior in Public Sectors of the Ann Arbor District Library.

II. Definitions

- A. Unattended child: 1) any child under 6 years of age whose parent/guardian/assigned chaperone is not within close physical proximity to the child 2) any older child that may need constant assistance because of evident stress or special circumstances and whose parent/guardian/assigned chaperone is not within close physical proximity
- B. Assigned chaperone: a person of at least 13 years of age who is responsible for a child under 6 years of age
- C. Close physical proximity: within the library buildings and within sight of the child
- D. Disruptive behavior: any violation of Policy 5.1 Behavior in the Public Sectors of the Ann Arbor District Library.

III. Procedures

All staff shall follow the procedure in the AADL Emergency Manual when there is an unattended child in any Library building.

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- B. A child under 6 years of age ~~or an older child who, because of evident stress or special circumstances, may need constant assistance,~~ must be attended by a parent/guardian/assigned chaperone who is in close physical proximity (with-in sight and earshot of the child) at all times while in any Ann Arbor District Library building.
- ~~C. -A child older than 6 years of age who, because of special circumstances, who may need constant assistance, must be attended by a parent/guardian/assigned chaperone who is in close physical proximity (within sight and earshot of the child) at all times while in any Ann Arbor District Library Building.~~
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