

HILLSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN LIBRARY

The Hillside Public Library encourages children of all ages to visit the library with their parents to take advantage of the resources available for them to meet their informational, recreational, and educational needs. It is the responsibility of parents to insure appropriate behavior of their children in the Library whether or not the parents are in attendance. Disruptive children will be required to leave the building after receiving one warning.

Staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children. However, library facilities are not designed or licensed to provide basic child care needs such as healthy snacks, physical exercise, or emergency care if the child becomes upset, ill or injured. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the library staff to guarantee a safe environment. Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended by their parents.

The library encourages parents to consider the safety and well being of their children and the needs of other library users of all ages. Children under age eight (8) must be attended by a parent or other responsible adult caregiver at all times while in the library.

If at any time the child is unattended the following will occur:

- 1) If the parent or caregiver is in the library, he or she will be asked to stay with and supervise the child.
- 2) If it is determined that the child is in the library without an adult caregiver, a staff member will call the parents and request that they pick up the child. If the parents cannot be reached within 30 minutes or if they do not respond within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility.

***In order to provide a safe and pleasant atmosphere for all library patrons and staff, the library board of trustees has established these rules and adopted this policy on February 20, 2002.
Reviewed: March 17, 2004***