

## **Unattended Children Policy**

The Yankton Community Library encourages visits by children, and wants their visits to be memorable and enjoyable.

“Unattended” means that the parent or responsible person is not in close proximity to the child. Parents are responsible for their children’s behavior in the library. Library staff cannot and will not assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children.

It is the policy of the library that all children under six years old must be in the company of a parent or responsible person who is twelve years of age or older while in the library.

If a child is left unattended in the Library, the staff will attempt to locate their parent/care provider. If a parent/care provider is in the Library, they will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children.

If a parent/care provider is not found in the Library, staff will attempt to locate the parent using library card registration. A parent, when contacted, will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children.

Fifteen minutes before closing time, Library staff will remind young people to contact a parent/responsible person for a ride home. For the safety of the child, the staff will not leave a child outside to wait on a ride.

If a parent/responsible person cannot be reached or does not arrive within fifteen minutes past closing time, the police may be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be reached. The Library staff is not permitted to give an unattended child a ride home.