

The trustees and staff of the Lenox Public Library hope that children perceive the library as an inviting and fun place. We encourage children and families to visit the library, to take advantage of the resources available, and to develop a love of reading and libraries. In an effort to provide an environment that allows everyone to use the library in a safe manner, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted this policy concerning unattended children.

Parents are reminded that unexpected events can occur while their children are unattended; the child could leave the library, the child could be approached by untrustworthy people, the child could be physically injured, or have a medical emergency.

The well-being of children left alone in a public building is a serious concern. Although the staff members attempt to ensure the safety of children in the building, their duties as providers of library service prevent them from being able to supervise each child. Library staff is not licensed to perform child care.

Parents or caregivers may not leave children under the age of 8 years unattended in the library. A caregiver is defined as a parent, another adult, or an adolescent 14 years of age or older. Children 8 years of age and older are considered to be “on their own” in the library, and they must observe the library’s conduct policy. If a disruption occurs, the patron is reminded of this policy. If unacceptable behavior continues, the patron must leave the library building and grounds. If the patron refuses to leave, staff will contact the Taylor County Sheriff Department.

Children who are 4 years old, but who are less than 8 may be left unattended during scheduled supervised library programs. Parents / caregivers must be in attendance with children less than 4 years of age. However, persons responsible for children with special needs, related to physical or mental ability, disruptive behavior, emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, incomplete social skills, etc. shall remain with their children at all times. Arrangements should be made for the children at the conclusion of a program.

The library staff assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises. When safety of an unattended child is in doubt, staff may contact the parents or caregivers. If they are not readily available, staff may contact the Taylor County Sheriff Department. The Library staff has discretion for each unique situation.