

Oskaloosa Public Library
Policy:

Unattended Children

Adopted:

June 1997

Last Affirmation:

May 2011

1. Children seven years and younger should be accompanied into the building by an adult and remain under visual contact and in their immediate vicinity while in the building. Children ages 8 - 12 may remain unsupervised for a maximum of three hours. Children ages 13 and older may have unlimited time at the library as long as their behavior is not disruptive.
2. Children seven years and younger who are attending library programs must have a responsible adult who remains in the building throughout the program.
3. A designated adult must meet each child at the end of each library program. Library staff cannot be responsible for supervising children after programs
4. All individuals are subject to regular library guidelines concerning disruptive behavior. (Please refer to the library's Behavior Policy). Parents will be notified if children using the library independently are not adhering to the rules of this policy.
5. To assure the safety of children who are visiting the library independently and are still in the library at closing time, library staff will follow these guidelines:
 - Children under 13 years of age will not be left on the library property unattended after library hours without supervision.
 - Staff members will not drive or escort the child(ren) home.
 - At least two staff members will remain with the children for up to 15 minutes after closing. Library staff will make every attempt to contact the parent or responsible adult during that period.
 - If the child is not picked up within 15 minutes of closing time, library staff will contact the Oskaloosa Police and request assistance. Once the child is under the supervision of the police officer the staff members may leave.
 - If for any reason the library closes before regularly scheduled hours, the same policy will apply.
6. Children designated as having Special Needs due to physical or mental ability, disruptive behavior, emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, incomplete social skills, etc. must be attended by a non-staff adult at all times.