

## Fairbury Public Library Unattended Children Policy

The library is not a playground, recreation center or daycare facility. Noisy or physically active behavior appropriate in such facilities is not appropriate in the library. In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library activities, to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the library and to provide for the general safety of children using the library the following policies apply.

1. Children age 7 or younger shall at all times be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible individual 13 years of age or older. Minors eight years of age and older who are unwilling or unable to care for themselves should at all times be adequately supervised by a caregiver.
2. Children may be left unattended at scheduled library programs. The responsible person should plan to be at the library when the program concludes. Children with special needs related to physical or mental ability shall be attended at all times.
3. Children frequently attend the library on their own or with a group of similar aged friends. These particular young patrons are referred to as unattended children. The library assumes no responsibility for the safety of these unattended children while on library premises.
4. Children 8 and older who come to the library alone must be responsible enough to conduct themselves in a quiet manner that does not disturb other patrons. They are expected to follow library rules or lose the privilege of unsupervised attendance.
5. When a patron appears to be lost or left unattended, the staff of the library will immediately try to locate the responsible person and will stay with the patron until that person is found. If the responsible person cannot be found in one hour's time or if the library is closing, the staff will contact the police department for assistance. The staff will under no circumstance take the patron out of the building.
6. If a minor is told to leave the library for not following library rules, staff must consider issues of the minor's physical safety while waiting for transportation.

*For purposes of the policy, "minor shall mean an unmarried person under the age of seventeen.*