

Homer Public Library Unattended Child Policy

- A. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the Homer Public Library's Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians or Responsible Caregivers shall review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing children, particularly the Internet Use Policy. **"Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a child or vulnerable adult and who must be at least 16 years old.**
- B. Parents, guardians and Responsible Caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children regardless of age while in the Library.
- C. Library staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.
- D. **Children 10 and under must be attended by a parent, guardian or Responsible Caregiver.** The parent, guardian or Responsible Caregiver shall remain in the Library at all times. If a child under the age of 10 is attending a Library-sponsored program on the premises, a parent, guardian, or Responsible Caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program or sign a permission slip authorizing the child to attend the program unattended.
- E. Children or any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, physical disability or other similar reason, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent, guardian or Responsible Caregiver at all times.
- F. **Children ages 7 and under must be within the visual contact of a parent, guardian or Responsible Caregiver at all times,** including during programs and visits to the restroom. Children 7 and under may not be left in the Children's Area alone.
- G. Library staff will not be responsible if unattended children of any age leave the Library premises alone or with other persons. Further, for children who may be asked to leave the Library if the child is in violation of Library policy, parents will be called and if they cannot be reached the police will be contacted.
- H. We request that all unattended children over the age of ten, be picked up at least 15 minutes before closing time. Parents will be called and if they cannot be reached the police will be contacted.
- I. **Parents, guardians and Responsible Caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.**
- J. **Children 13 years or older must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the Library.** It is a violation of Library policy not to come immediately and pick up you unattended child if the Library calls.