

The William F. Laman Public Library System welcomes library use by children. Staff members are available to assist children with library materials and services. The library desires to provide a safe environment for patrons of all ages. The library is a public building with staff trained to provide public library services; however, the library is not equipped to, nor is its role to provide, long or short-term child care. No patron should have the expectation of using library facilities or staff as an alternative to child care or supervision.

For safety and security purposes, as well as the comfort of all library patrons, a responsible adult or caregiver at least sixteen (16) years of age or older must accompany any child who appears not to be sufficiently capable or mature to be on library premises without supervision. Parents or caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of the child they accompany, and for ensuring that the child follows established library policies and procedures.

In situations including, but not limited to, the following:

1. An unattended child is found frightened or crying in the library;
2. An unattended child is perceived to be endangering themselves;
3. Another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child;
4. An unattended child exhibits inappropriate behavior according to the established behavior policy;
5. An unattended child has not been met by a parent or caregiver at the time the library closes;

library staff will evaluate the situation and will attempt to locate the parent or guardian of the unattended child. In the event that the parent or guardian cannot be located within the building, the child will be placed in the care of the North Little Rock Police Department.

This policy will be used in conjunction with the established Behavior in the Library Policy. A written incident report will be generated by library staff when any action is taken concerning an unattended child on library premises.