

CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

General Expectations All of us at the Lansing Community Library want a safe and secure environment for children. While the library is generally perceived to be both safe and secure, our experience tells us that children may occasionally be at risk. We ask parents to join us in protecting children from harm. Some things to keep in mind:

- Children can hurt themselves and others when they run, climb on library furniture or shelving, or stand too close to a door.
- The library staff is committed to helping children find materials for educational and recreational pursuits, providing an environment that encourages study and exploration and planning programs that inform and enrich. For safety and security reasons, young children should never be left unattended.
- Children share the library with many other users who need and expect a quiet environment, thus, children will be expected to adhere to the same expectations of behavior as adult patrons (see our Code of Conduct Policy).
- Youth thirteen (13) and under may not use the internet without written permission from a parent or guardian (see our Public Computer and Internet Use Policy).

Unattended Children Children are welcome to use the library at all times. However, the library is not a substitute for supervised childcare. The library is a public space, and library personnel do not provide supervision or assume responsibility for children.

An unattended child is any child under the age of 18 who is unaccompanied by an adult. A parent or guardian may not leave a child unattended who is incapable of caring for him/herself alone. Nor may a parent or guardian leave an unattended child in the care of another child who is unable or unwilling to provide adequate supervision.

So, before your children visit the library unattended, please consider whether or not:

- They are old enough to be unsupervised in a public place
- They have enough activities to occupy themselves during their entire visit
- They enjoy the library and its resources: books, games, magazines and computers
- They can leave on their own and/or be picked up promptly by closing time

It is especially concerning when unattended children are left waiting to be picked up after closing time. Please be sure you know the library hours and pick up your child promptly by closing time.

Children who need to contact their parents are encouraged to ask for assistance at the front desk.

Amended and approved 2/26/20 by LCL Board of Trustees

UNATTENDED CHILDREN LETTER

Dear Parent or Guardian: The library welcomes patrons of all ages, but we do not provide childcare. Before allowing your children to visit the library unattended, please consider whether:

- They are old enough to be unsupervised in a public place.
- They have enough activities to occupy themselves during their entire visit.
- They enjoy the library and its resources: books, games, magazines and computers.
- They can leave on their own or can be picked up promptly by closing time.

If you decide that the library is the right setting for your unattended children, please take the time to review our *Children in the Library Policy* and our *Code of Conduct Policy* with your children, and please remember to pick your children up by closing time. For your convenience, library hours are listed below, and the two aforementioned policies are attached to this letter.

Library Hours Mon-Wed 10am – 8pm Th 10am – 6 pm Fri & Sat 10am – 2pm
Sun *closed*

If you would like to make an appointment to discuss our policies regarding use of the library by unattended children, please contact me at director@lansinglibrary.org or 607-533-4939.

Sincerely,

Susie Gutenberger, Director