



Lake Dallas Public Library

Policy for Unattended Children

The Lake Dallas Public Library offers a wonderful variety of programs and events for children from preschool to high school age. We welcome and encourage your child's participation and would love for you to join in as well. However, we cannot take on the responsibility of providing consistent care and supervision for your unattended child.

How Parents/Caregivers Can Support Us:

1. **Emergency Contact Information:** Teach your child your address and phone numbers so we can reach you in case of an emergency.
2. **Supervision:** Accompany your child to the library or ensure they are with a responsible young adult or adult caregiver.
3. **Library Hours:** Do not leave your child outside the library before it opens.
4. **Timely Pickup:** Pick up your child before the library closes. Remember, the library is a public place and even older children can become hungry, distracted, or frightened when left alone. You are responsible for your child's safety at closing time. It is unsafe to leave children outside the library at closing time. Please be aware of our schedules and hours. Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Unattended Children Guidelines:

- **Children with Special Needs:** Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional challenges that require supervision should always be accompanied by a parent or caregiver and always be within immediate vicinity or in visual contact
- **Children Under 10:** Must have a parent or caregiver in the building and always be within immediate vicinity or in visual contact. Exception:
- **Children attending library programs.** Parents/caregivers must remain in the library and rejoin the child at the end of the program.
- **Interaction with Others:** Library staff are not responsible for preventing children from interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not designated caregivers.

- Emergency Situations: If issues arise while children are using the library or if they are left alone, library staff will attempt to contact the parents/caregivers. If the parents cannot be reached, the Lake Dallas Police Department may be called.

Unattended Children at Closing:

- Timely Arrival: Parents/caregivers are expected to arrive before the library's posted closing time.
- After Closing: If a child is left unattended at closing time, library staff will attempt to contact a parent/caregiver.
- Inability to Contact: If the parent/caregiver cannot be contacted or informs staff they will be more than 20 minutes late, the Lake Dallas Police Department will be contacted to take custody of the child.
- Repeat Offenders: If a child is repeatedly left unattended at closing time, Lake Dallas Police Department may be notified.