

## **Jefferson Public Library – Unattended Child Policy**

Jefferson Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections, and programming offered by the library. The library attempts to provide a safe environment for children to select books and other materials, and to attend library programming. For the safety of minor children and the enjoyment of all patrons using the library, please observe the following rules regarding unattended children:

- Children under the age of ten must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a young adult or sibling of at least 14 years of age who acknowledges responsibility for the child, during their entire stay in the library. Exceptions to this rule may be discussed with the Library Director.
- Children under the age of ten may not be left unattended in the library unless the child is participating in a library program and has the permission of the staff to be there unsupervised. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while in the library.
- If a child is left unattended in the library, the staff will inform the parents of library policy prohibiting this. If the child is repeatedly left unsupervised, the parents will be notified that their child is no longer permitted to use the library unattended.
- Parents should be aware of library closing time and make arrangements for children to be picked up at the appropriate time. The library staff is not responsible for children who have not been picked up by the library's closing time.
- Parents are responsible for monitoring what a child borrows from the library; library staff or volunteers do not serve in loco parentis.
- All library patrons; including children are subject to library policies.
- Adults unaccompanied by a child who do not require immediate materials from the Children's area shall be asked to relocate to other areas of the library when there are children present.

*Approved by Board of Trustees on August 19, 2014*