



Unattended Child Policy

Board approved: 8/8/2019

The Centralia Public Library (CPL) welcomes all children and seeks to create a safe and welcoming environment for patrons of all ages.

Children should not be left unattended on CPL property. Library staff does not provide direct supervision for individual children who visit CPL unaccompanied. The library requests that parents and guardians consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users by cooperating with the following policies:

- Children ages 8 and under **must be** accompanied by their parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (13 yrs or older).
- Children 9 years old and over may use the library independently, providing they are able to follow library rules and observe proper conduct. Children, like all library users are required to respect library property and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library. (See **Appropriate Use of the Library** policy)
- Disruptive behavior will be handled according to the **Appropriate Use of the Library** policy.
- Even in their absence, parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children.
- CPL staff must have a way to contact parents or guardians during the entire time the child is unattended at the library. Please make sure CPL has a current phone number on file for you and your child's library account(s).
- If an unattended child is in the library at closing time and a parent or guardian cannot be located (or contacted) 15 minutes after closing, the local police department will be asked to help the child get home safely.
- Under no circumstances will library staff drive a child home.