



## **Supervision of Children Policy**

The Watsonville Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the library, use library resources and services and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children; however, the library is not able to provide short- or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children. Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of children at all times in the library and on library property.

To ensure the safety of children at the library, the following guidelines will be followed:

- 1) Supervision of Children
  - a. Children ages 7 or younger should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian or assigned caregiver.
  - b. Parents or caregivers of children ages 7 and younger are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs.
  - c. Older children (ages 8 and older) able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended; otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or assigned caregiver.
- 2) Disruptive or Unsafe Behavior (See: Library Usage Guideline)
  - a. Staff will warn the child and notify parents, guardians or assigned caregivers that the child needs additional supervision.
  - b. If the disruptive behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave.
  - c. If an unattended child is without transportation, Staff will notify parents/guardians to pick up the unattended child.
  - d. If a problem with the same child recurs, a Staff member will contact and set up a meeting with parents/guardians to discuss said behavior before the child may be allowed to enter the library or use the library's resources.
  - e. If all attempts to contact the parent/guardian and/or behavior issues have not been resolved, law enforcement will be contacted to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.
- 2) Unattended Children after Closing Hours
  - a. Staff will make a reasonable effort to assure that children leave the library safely at closing time.

- b. Fifteen (15) minutes before closing, Staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to pick up the child.
- c. However, if a child is in the building after closing, Staff members will remain in the library with said child and will contact the Watsonville Police Department to ensure safe transport and the safety of the child.
- d. Under no circumstances will library staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

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