

Cedar Falls Public Library

SAFE CHILD POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Safe Child Policy [or Unattended Child Policy] is to maintain a safe, secure, and patron-friendly environment for patrons using the library or the Book Nook. Creating such an environment requires the participation of all who use the library. Additionally, this policy reinforces that guardians and caregivers are responsible for their child's safety and welfare and for monitoring children's activities and behavior. Children are subject to the same expectations and consequences for noncompliance as adult patrons.

POLICY

The Cedar Falls Public Library is not responsible for unattended children.

The Library cannot ensure the safety of any library patron of any age. Library staff duties cannot include babysitting or taking over any caregiver responsibilities for children in the library. CFPL assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.

Guardians or responsible caregivers cannot leave children nine and under unattended in the library. Exceptions may be made by library staff for children aged six to nine who are attending select library programs. When an exception is made, the responsible caregiver is expected to remain in the library building and available during the program and to join the child immediately at the end of the program.

Children or groups of children visiting the library from any preschool, child care or babysitting facility must be under direct visual supervision at all times by caregivers to ensure safety and to monitor behavior.

If an unattended child aged nine or under is being disruptive or is left for long periods of time, an effort will be made to locate the responsible guardian or caregiver. If the guardian or caregiver cannot be contacted or located within one hour of the discovery that the child is unattended, or if the library is closing, local law enforcement will be notified to take custody of the child.

Reviewed/Revised: 09/02/2015, 12/04/2019, 11/02/2022, 6/03/2026