UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The North Sioux City Community Library encourages visits by young children, and wants their visits to be memorable and enjoyable.

It is the policy of the library that all children five years of age and under must be in the company of a parent or responsible person who is twelve or older while in the library.

"Unattended" means that the parent or designated person is not in close proximity to the child. Library staff cannot be expected to assume responsibility for the care of unsupervised children. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior in the library.

Children of preschool age may not be left unattended in any part of the Library. If a child under the age of seven is attending a Library program, a parent or childcare provider must remain in the library until the conclusion of the program.

If a child is left unattended in the Library, the staff will attempt to locate his/her parent/care provider. If a parent/care provider is in the Library, they will be informed of the Library's policy concerning unattended children. If a parent/care provider is not found in the Library, staff will attempt to locate the parent using the phone book or library card registration. A parent, when contacted, will be informed of the Library's policy concerning unattended children.

Fifteen minutes before closing time, Library staff will remind young people to contact a parent/guardian for a ride home. For the safety of the child, the staff will not leave a child under the age of twelve outside to wait on a ride. The Library staff is not permitted to give an unattended child a ride home.

If a parent/guardian cannot be reached or does not arrive within fifteen minutes past closing time, the police may be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be reached.