

Unattended Child Policy

You and your children are welcome in the library. This is a busy public building. We cannot monitor all the children here, but we are concerned for their well-being. Library staff do not serve in the place of a parent (*in loco parentis*). The Oregon Department of Human Services Child Protective Service considers it to be an "impending danger safety threat" that warrants immediate intervention by CPS if a parent abandons a child, leaves a child with someone who does not know the parent, or leaves a child with someone and does not return as planned. (See CPS's Child Welfare Procedure Manual, pages 24-27, available at http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/ch02/ch2-assessment.pdf.)

These rules will help your child be safe.

1. Children younger than age 6 must stay with a parent or caregiver age of 12 or older in the library at all times.
2. Children ages 6 and under 10 must be supervised by a parent, caregiver, or responsible young adult 12 or older who remains in the library.
3. Children age 10 and older may be in the library unsupervised, however, the library cannot accept responsibility for the safety and supervision of minor children.
4. Children of any age with developmental, physical, or emotional disabilities that render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver in the library at all times.
5. Adults attending meetings in the library must make arrangements for the supervision of their children.
6. Children abandoned at the library will be taken to the Springfield Police Department for their safety.