



### **Unattended Child Policy**

The Roeliff Jansen Community Library encourages children to use its facilities and services. The Library is a public place. Anyone may enter and use the facilities. As in all public places, *stranger danger* is a real concern. While the Library is very concerned for the safety of children in and outside Library facilities, Library employees cannot function as caregivers or baby sitters. The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents or guardians failing to fulfill their responsibilities.

1. Children seven (7) years of age and younger may not be left unattended in the Library. They must be under the direct supervision of a parent or other adult when in the Library, which means the adult must remain with the child during the entire library visit.
2. Children ages 8-12 may use the Library unattended for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior.
3. Parents and/or guardians are responsible for the conduct of minor children (under 18 years of age) in the Library or on Library grounds, regardless of whether they are accompanying their child or not.
4. Children must have the telephone numbers of their parent, guardian, or other caretaker so that a responsible person may be contacted to come and pick up the child in case of a health emergency, behavior problem, inclement weather, a power outage, or other special circumstances.
5. Unattended minors who do not abide by Library rules and policies, or who exhibit unacceptable behavior, will be asked to leave and call their parents for a ride.
6. If the Library is closing and an unattended child is left at the Library without transportation home, Library staff will allow the child to call home to remind their

parents or guardian to pick them up. If a child is unable to contact their parents or guardian, Library staff will remain no longer than 15 minutes after closing. At that time, local law authorities will be contacted and the child will be placed in their care.

7. Under no circumstances shall a staff member take responsibility for the care of any age child or drive a child home.
8. Violation of the unattended child policy constitutes grounds for suspension of Library privileges.

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees December 9, 2008**  
**Reviewed and Amended, March 15, 2022**