

Unattended Children Policy

The Siletz Public Library welcomes and encourages library use by children. Providing quality materials and services to young people is one of our primary responsibilities. Parents and guardians are advised, however, that the Library is a busy, public place and that they are responsible for monitoring and regulating their children's behavior, safety, and welfare while on library premises.

Although it is a Library priority to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages, the Library staff is not responsible for providing long- or short-term care for unattended children.

In accordance with Oregon state law (ORS 163.545), children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or other responsible caregiver who is 12 years of age or older. Older children (age 11 and older) are welcome to use the library independently, however, responsibility for minors using the library rests with the parent/guardian. Caregivers who choose to leave a child unattended must first ensure that the child is capable of proper library behavior and of observing Library expectations for appropriate use of library materials. Caregivers who neglect to provide proper supervision of their child and regulate disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the Library with their child. Parents/legal guardians will be held responsible for damage to Library property caused by their children.

If a child is left unattended, Library staff will attempt to contact the caregiver before calling authorities. In the case of an immediate safety concern, staff will contact authorities immediately and then attempt to contact the caregiver. Staff will stay with the person until another responsible party arrives.