Caldwell Public Library

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Children are encouraged to use the Caldwell Public Library as a place of study and inquiry. Parents, guardians and caregivers are encouraged to use the library with their children. However, it is not the library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for children while parents or other supervising adults are outside the children's department and/or the library. Parents should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals. The following policy has been designed to communicate the library's concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

1. Parents and guardians are, at all times, responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on library premises. They must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, abilities and the levels of responsibility of their children.

A. Children nine (9) years of age and younger must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. If the adult in charge of a child nine (9) years of age or younger wishes to go to another area of the library for materials (or to check out materials), the child should accompany the adult. Children ten (10) and older are permitted to use the library without parent/guardian supervision.

B. Children, like all library users, are required to respect library property, and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library (see Appropriate Conduct Policy). Children who are not using the library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention or supervision, will be asked to leave the library. The parents or guardians of these children will be notified, and if necessary, asked to stay with their children while visiting the library.

2. Parents are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Power failures, or other emergencies, can occur and require unexpected evacuations of the building. Children left alone in the library, or on library grounds could be vulnerable. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact parents prior to closing. If a child is left at the library after closing time, the police will be called. A staff member will remain with the child until a police officer arrives. Under no circumstances will a staff member offer to drive the child home.

3. The library is not responsible for the safety or security of children left unattended.

Approved October 21, 2026