

PICKAWAY COUNTY DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY
POLICY ON UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The Pickaway County District Public Library is a community information resource center. People come to the library to get information, to read, to use library materials, and to study. It belongs to the whole community and not to any specific person or group of people. The library is not a playground, recreation center, or day care center. In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library patrons, and to provide for the general safety of children, the Board of Trustees of the Pickaway County District Public Library has developed the following rules:

1. All children seven years or younger, must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver. The library assumes no responsibility for an unattended child. The person-in-charge of the child must stay with the child, unless the child is participating in storytime or any other library program. In that case, the person-in-charge of the child must remain in the library.
2. Children eight years and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the library. Parents should not view the library as an alternative to day care. Staff cannot monitor everyone who enters, and all patrons are free to use any public area within the library. For safety's sake, parents should make sure that their children are sufficiently mature before allowing them to visit the library alone. Parents should be advised that if the conduct of their child is inappropriate, they may be instructed to leave the library. Parents should further realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for the behavior of their children.
3. Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary, must be accompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver at all times.
4. When a child seven years of age or younger appears to be lost or unattended, library staff will immediately try to locate the parents or responsible adult in the library or by phone. A staff member will stay with the child while search for the parent or responsible adult is in progress. If parents or a responsible adult cannot be located within thirty minutes, staff will contact the police department for assistance.
5. When a child thirteen or under is unattended at closing time, staff will immediately try to locate the parents. If unsuccessful, the police department will be contacted for assistance. Under no circumstances shall a staff member take a child out of the building.