

BARTLESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SAFETY OF CHILDREN POLICY

While the Bartlesville Public Library staff hopes that the children who use our library will perceive our facilities as a safe and enjoyable space, library staff shall not and will not be solely responsible for the safety or well-being of children left on library property. For the protection of children who enjoy the library, the following policy has been established.

1. Parents/caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children while on library property.
2. Children under the age of 10 must remain with a parent or caregiver while in the library.
3. Children of any age may not be left unattended at the library for extended periods of time. Library staff will have sole discretion in determining "extended" time. The library and its staff members will not serve as childcare.
4. When children attend library programs, parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to remain in the library for the duration of the program. Due to unexpected circumstances, programs may end before or after the posted time.
5. Lost or unattended children will be brought to the Youth Services Area desk. Library staff will walk through the library with the child to look for a parent or caregiver. If a parent or caregiver is not located, the police or another appropriate agency may be called at the discretion of the staff.
6. Staff will notify parents of the library's "Safety of Children" Policy when children are left unattended.
7. If library staff determine children are exhibiting disruptive, noisy, or destructive behavior, efforts will be made to locate a parent or caregiver. If a parent or caregiver cannot be located, the police or another appropriate agency may be called at the discretion of the staff.
8. Whenever possible, a staff member shall not be alone with a child. In situations where staff are waiting with a child, there shall be two staff members present.
9. Under no circumstances shall a staff member take a child out of the building or transport the child to another location.