

## **Child safety/Unattended child**

The Arkport Public Library welcomes library use by children. Staff members are available to assist children with library materials or services. The Library is not equipped – and it is not the Library’s role – to provide long or short-term child care.

While in the Library, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children. A responsible adult or caregiver must accompany children while they are using the library.

In order to maintain a suitable environment for all of our library users, we ask that the rules of Behavior Policy be observed, and that parents and caregivers be aware of the following policy concerning children in the Library.

- Children under the age of 9 must have a parent/caregiver at least 16 years of age in the same area of the Library as the child. If a child under nine is found unattended or violates the rules of the Behavior Policy, the child and parent/caregiver may be asked to leave the library.
- Children ages 9 and up may use the Library on their own. Parents, however, are still responsible for the actions and safety of their children. Children are subject to the same rules and consequences as other library users, including being asked to leave the Library. Please note: it is sometimes necessary for libraries to close due to unusual or emergency situations. All children should have the telephone number of someone to call in an emergency.
- Children may hurt themselves and/or others when they run or climb on library furniture or shelving. Please help prevent injuries by watching your children at all times.
- Repeated banging on keyboards damages the computers. Please keep all young children away from the computers.
- Your children are sharing the library with many other library users, some of whom need and expect a quiet library. Please be aware that the level of noise which parents are accustomed to may not be acceptable to others. Quiet voices are expected.
- The Library may not be used as day care.
- Please be sure you know the library hours and promptly pick up your child before the library closes.

**It may be necessary to notify appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities if:**

- An unattended child is being disruptive.
- A child is habitually left unattended for long periods of time.

**If an unattended child is found in the library the following action will be taken:**

- An attempt will be made by staff to reunite the child with the parent or caregiver within the library.
- If the parent or caregiver is not in the library, a staff member will try to obtain a contact phone number from the child.
- If the phone number is obtained from the child, the parent or caregiver will be called and a request will be made to pick up the child within 30 minutes.
- 911 will be contacted if the child is not picked up within a reasonable amount of time not to exceed 30 minutes, and an incident report will be submitted.

**PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, NOT LIBRARY STAFF, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN VISITING THE LIBRARY.**

Adopted by the Arkport Public Library Board of Trustees

On November 21, 2024