

The Library Board and staff of the Nappanee Public Library encourage children to come to the Library and explore all the possibilities available to them. Staff members are committed to helping children with activities related to the Library. However, the Library and its staff cannot provide childcare and are not responsible for unattended children. Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers (henceforth referred to as “Responsible Persons”) are solely responsible for the supervision, safety, and behavior of their minor children in the Library and on Library property, whether or not they accompany the children. An unattended child is one who appears to be unaccompanied by an adult parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. Any minor who is at the Library without supervision, regardless of age, must be able to contact a Responsible Person in case of emergency, unexpected Library closings, or for transportation needs.

1. All children under the age of 9 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a Responsible Person age 12 or older. The Responsible Person must be in the same area of the Library with the child at all times, unless the child is attending a library program where caregiver presence is not required. At that time, the Responsible Person must remain in the Library and must promptly pick up the child as soon as the program is over.

If a child under the age of 9 is at the Library unattended, or is being supervised by a person under the age of 12, reasonable attempts will be made to contact the child’s Responsible Person. If no Responsible Person can be reached, then Library staff have the authority to call the Nappanee Police Department regarding an unattended child.

2. Children who are 9 years and older may visit the Library by themselves as long as they are engaged in activities associated with the use of a public library. Children are subject to the same codes of conduct as all library patrons. If a child is being disruptive, that child may be asked to leave the Library for the day.

3. Responsible Persons should be aware of Library hours and closures and must arrange transportation for their unattended children by the time the Library closes. Under no circumstances will Library staff transport or walk a child home or to any other location.

If a child under the age of 12 is found unattended at closing time, two NPL staff members will wait with the child while they attempt to contact a Responsible Person. If a Responsible Person cannot be reached and/or has not picked up the child within 15 minutes after closing time, the library staff have the authority to call the Nappanee Police Department.

Responsible Persons dropping off children outside the Library should first ensure that the Library is open. The Library is not necessarily open to the public when there are lights on in the building.

4. Responsible Persons attending meetings on Library property, whether sponsored by an outside group or the Library, must

- Leave their children at home,
- Keep their children with them in the meeting, provided children are welcome to attend, or
- Have them adequately supervised by another designated Responsible Person age 12 or older outside of the meeting or workshop.

Repeat violations of this policy may result in loss of library privileges. Customers are encouraged to talk to the Library Director if they have questions or want additional information regarding this or other policies.