



BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The Euclid Public Library (“Library”) welcomes and encourages children to visit and use the Library and its services. Responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children using the Library and its services rests with the parent, guardian, or designated caregiver. Under no circumstances does the Library accept responsibility for minor children, regardless of age. This includes while children are in the Library or outside on Library grounds, and upon their departure from the Library.

The Library recognizes that when children are left alone in the Library without parental supervision, their safety may be jeopardized. Unattended children might wander throughout the library, go outside alone, or even be coaxed away by someone other than the parent, guardian, or caregiver. Other unavoidable hazards include doors, furniture and electrical outlets. The Library is concerned for the well-being of our community’s children, and must affirm that the Library staff cannot take the place of parents or guardians nor act as caregiver or babysitter, and cannot be responsible for problems resulting from children being left unattended.

If the Library determines that a child is unattended, the Library may make an effort to locate or contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver and/or may contact local law enforcement officers to provide assistance. **An unattended child includes a child who is determined by the Library to be unable to care for self or to be in need of the attention or assistance of the child’s parent, guardian, or caregiver, after being left unattended in the Library (even if a parent, guardian, or caregiver may be elsewhere in the building) or to not have been picked up when the Library closes for the day.** The Library will not be responsible for a child after closing, and under no circumstances will the Library transport an unattended child of any age in Library or personal vehicles.

A parent, guardian, or caregiver must make developmentally appropriate arrangements for their child’s visits to the Library. These arrangements must include developmentally appropriate supervision (which may require being in close proximity, with visual contact and active attention to the child, especially for a young child; remaining in the building even if not in the immediate vicinity of an older child; and otherwise remaining responsible for the care, safety, and behavior of the child, regardless of the child’s age); backup plans with the child in case the child is excluded from the Library because of behavior; and backup plans with the child if the Library closes before a scheduled pick-up. Attendance at Library programs is not a childcare substitute.

All children and their parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for complying with the Patron Code of Conduct and are subject to its enforcement. Further, any restrictions of a child’s access to the Internet or electronic mail in the Library or to online Library services are the responsibility of the parent or legal guardians. (See policy on Internet and Electronic Records.)

In addition to this Policy on unattended children, children age 17 and under must be accompanied by their parent, guardian, or other chaperone age 21 or older as required by the Library’s Adult Chaperone Required (ACR) guidelines and as described in the Library’s Patron Code of Conduct. This includes between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays during the school year or as otherwise designated by the Library Director (“ACR periods”). (See the Library’s Patron Code of Conduct.)

The Library Director is authorized to develop administrative guidelines and procedures to implement this policy.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 09-19-05; revised 12-20-22