

SAFE CHILD POLICY

The Clear Lake Public Library welcomes visits by children. However, when children are left unattended at the Library, problems can arise. Young children may become frightened or confused and wander away. Older children cannot be expected to deal with a small child who is frightened, tired, or ill. Older children left on their own for extended periods may become bored and disruptive. Since the library is a public building, children might be approached by strangers. If an unattended child has a medical emergency, the library staff cannot take legal responsibility.

Therefore, to protect children who are using the library and to provide all patrons with a facility that is safe and pleasant, the Clear Lake Public Library Board of Trustees adopts the following guidelines:

1. An unattended child is a child ten years of age or younger who is apparently unaccompanied by a responsible caregiver.
2. Parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of the child at the library.
3. The library staff requests that parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers stay within sight of the child when in the library. Exception: When a child attends a library program where adult supervision is not required, a parent, guardian, teacher, or caregiver is expected to pick up the child as soon as the program ends.
4. Children age eleven or over may remain in the library unattended for a period of time not to exceed 4 hours, provided they abide by the policies set forth by the Clear Lake Public Library Board of Trustees.
5. The library staff reserves the right to contact parents, guardians or other proper authorities if minors are left unattended and require supervision.
6. If the library is closing, at a regular time or in an emergency situation and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located, the Clear Lake Police Department will be called to take the child.

This policy adopted by the Clear Lake Public Library Board of Trustees on April 13, 2021.