

## Unattended Children Policy

The West Linn Public Library provides a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs, and use the Library's collections and spaces. Library staff are committed to assisting children in using the Library.

Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children. Library staff cannot provide childcare, supervise unattended children, or assume responsibility for the safety of children left unattended on Library premises.

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and actively supervised by a parent or guardian. "Accompanied" means that the child must remain within sight of the parent or guardian at all times. It is strongly recommended that all children be accompanied by someone who can assume responsibility in the event of an emergency.

Children ages 10 and older may use the Library unaccompanied. Parents and guardians are encouraged to consider whether their child is sufficiently mature to be in the Library alone. Even when parents or guardians are not present, they remain responsible for their child's safety, behavior, and well-being.

Like all Library users, children are expected to behave appropriately and abide by the Library's Behavior Policy. Children who violate the Behavior Policy may be asked to leave the Library. Library staff reserve the right to contact parents or the West Linn Police Department if an unattended child is in distress or behaving in a manner that disrupts Library operations.

### **Truancy**

Under *ORS 339.010*, children between the ages of 6 and 18 are generally required to attend school unless legally excused. The Library does not enforce school attendance laws. However, if staff have reason to believe a school-aged child may be truant or in need of assistance while in the Library during school hours, staff may contact a parent or guardian, the appropriate school or school district, or local authorities as appropriate.

### **Closing Time**

Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring their child has transportation to and from the Library. If an unattended child remains at the Library at closing time without transportation, Library staff will make every effort to contact the child's parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, Library staff will contact the West Linn Police Department.

### **Mandatory Reporting**

Library staff are mandatory reporters under Oregon law (*ORS 419B.010*). If a staff member has reasonable cause to believe that a child may be experiencing abuse or neglect, the staff member will report the concern to the Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare program or to law enforcement, as required by law.

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