

**Chesterfield Public Library  
Children's Safety Policy**

**STATEMENT:** We welcome children to use the library. The library desires to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages. The staff will assist children in use of the library materials or services. However, the library is not equipped, and it is not the library's role, to provide childcare. The library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.

**AGE:**

Children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended, except during scheduled library-sponsored programs.

Children 9 and older may be left unattended providing they are mature enough to stay alone and observe proper conduct. Such children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons. Children must be able to reach an adult in case of an emergency.

**UNATTENDED CHILDREN:**

If the library staff finds that an unattended child is disrupting others, or is not using the library in a safe and appropriate manner:

- 1) They will ask the child to fix the inappropriate behavior.
  
- 2) If the parent or caregiver is located within the building, the staff will inform him/her of the library policy. If the parent/guardian refuses, or is unable, to control the child, they will both be asked to leave.
  
- 3) In the event that the parent/caregiver is not in the building, attempts will be made to reach them by phone. If no one can be reached by phone, or a reasonable accommodation cannot be met, then the child shall be placed in the care of the Chesterfield Police Dept.
  
- 4) If the Chesterfield Police Department is unavailable at the time they are called, a staff person will remain with the child until the police can respond, or the child's parent/guardian arrives.

**CLOSING TIME:**

Children who have not been picked up by closing time, and whose parents or guardian cannot be contacted, will be placed in the care of the Chesterfield Police Dept.

**DISABILITIES:**

Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary shall be accompanied by a parent, or another caregiver, at all times.