

**Safety and Well-Being of Children**  
**08/11/2025**

**4.9 Unattended Children**

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library encourages people of all ages to visit its libraries. In order to provide for the general safety of children using the library, the general welfare of all persons using the library, and to prevent disruption of library service, the following policies have been established:

1. All children age twelve (12) or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person age eighteen (18) or older. Adequate supervision requires that the responsible person be in the same area in the library with the child/children at all times, unless they are in a staff-supervised program.
  - a. If a child age twelve (12) and younger is attending a staff-supervised program, the responsible adult may make personal use of library services and the library facility while the program is occurring in another area of the library property.
2. Children age thirteen (13) and older may appropriately use the library unattended, subject to the general rules set forth for all users of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library system concerning conduct. However, Southeast Arkansas Regional Library staff and administration assume no responsibility for any child left unattended.
3. Parents, Guardians, or Caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of their children. The library is not a child care provider but a public institution where all patrons have equal right to quality library services in a safe and relaxed environment.
4. Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers should be aware of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children within operating hours.
  - a. If a child age twelve (12) or younger is found to be left unaccompanied on library property while library staff are conducting closing procedures before closing time, staff will make every attempt to assist the child with contacting their responsible adult for transportation. If no contact with the responsible adult is made within fifteen minutes after closing, staff will call for police assistance. Officers have the option of taking the child to the police station for their safety and supervision. Record of this incident will be documented in the child's and/or parent/responsible adult's library account.
  - b. Under no circumstances will a staff member transport any minor age seventeen (17) and younger home or to any other destination.