

## **Child Safety Policy**

### **Unattended Children**

The safety of children on library premises is a serious concern of the library staff. However, the responsibility for the safety and behavior of children on library premises rests with the parent or childcare provider and not with library staff. The following guidelines apply to the conduct of children.

- Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible childcare provider.
- Children, age 5 and older may be left unattended only in accordance with Iowa Code section 726.6 "Child Endangerment" which addresses parental responsibility for providing supervision appropriate to a child or minor's age.
- Children left unattended should know how to reach a parent or guardian and parents should be aware of the library closing time.
- Children should know who is picking them up and when.
- Parents and guardians should be aware of the hours of programs so that the children do not have to wait for unreasonable lengths of time to be picked up.
- Parents or guardians should advise children to wait inside the building to avoid the hazards of the street and parking lot.
- Staff members will not transport children from the library to any other location.
- If an unattended child's conduct calls attention to him/herself, library staff member may attempt to locate the parent or responsible child care provider.
- If a problem arises with children of any age, and the staff is unable to locate the parent or guardian, the police will be notified.

The Hudson Public Library is a public building open to all. The staff cannot regulate when or with whom children leave the library.

### **Consequences**

Enforcement of these rules for children may take the following forms, depending on the severity of the misconduct, which will be determined by the library staff.

- A child who is violating the Conduct in the Library Policy will be given one warning. If a child does not modify his/her behavior after one warning, the parent or child care provider may be asked to remove the child from library premises.
- If a child is violating the Conduct in the Library Policy and is not attended by a parent or child care provider, a library staff member will ask the child to modify his/her behavior and take appropriate action.

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