

# Earlham Public Library

## **POLICY: Unattended Child Policy**

Adopted: **April 8, 2014**

Last Revision: **April 2024**

Next Review: **April 2027**

### **Unattended Child Policy**

The Earlham Public Library has established a welcoming, educational and safe place for children, and we are glad your children are here. But the well-being of children left alone in a public building is a serious concern.

Although our staff members work to ensure the safety of children in the building, their duties as providers of library services prevent them from being able to supervise each child. Library staff members are not licensed to provide child care.

#### **Children Up to Age 7**

1. Young children must have a parent or caregiver age thirteen or older in the immediate vicinity. If a child in this age group is found unattended or if he or she violates library rules, the parent or caregiver will be informed of the violation. If a second violation occurs, the family will be asked to leave the library for the day.
2. An exception is for children attending Story Hour or another library program without a parent or caregiver in the room. However, the parent of a caregiver must remain in the library and immediately join the child at the end of the program.

#### **Children 8 to 12**

These children may use the library on their own. However, parents are still responsible for the actions of their children.

#### **Teens 13 to 17**

1. Teenagers are treated as adult patrons. However, they are still the legal responsibility of their parents.
2. Teens responsible for younger siblings must have emergency contact information.

**Library telephone is available for unattended children to contact caregivers for check ins and rides.**