

EUREKA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

The trustees and staff of Eureka Public Library District hope that children who use the library will see it as an inviting and fun place to visit. To provide an enjoyable and safe library for everyone is important to the trustees and staff of EPLD. This policy outlines the guidelines for the proper and safe use of the library.

1. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library. It is important to recognize the staff of Eureka Public Library District is committed to helping all children with activities related to the library. However, library staff cannot, nor is it their responsibility, serve as babysitters, teachers, disciplinarians, or assist children in the bathroom.
2. **Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent or other responsible young adult or adult caregiver.** When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, library staff is authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.
3. From time to time, the Eureka Public Library schedules or provides programs which are designed and suitable for attendance by children without parental supervision. **Children in kindergarten or younger will need to be accompanied by a young adult or adult caregiver during library programs.**
4. Children aged 8 and 9 may use the library unattended by an adult for up to 30 minutes, or, if attending a program, for the length of the program. Older children, aged 10 and up, can use the library by themselves for longer periods of time. As with any library user, the child is subject to all library rules and policies concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor. Unattended children should have a library-related purpose in staying at the library, such as working on homework, finding a book, or attending a library program. Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while in the library.
5. **Unattended children after the library has closed-** In the event a child is still at the library 10 minutes after the library closes to the public, the police will be called to pick up the child. Attempts will be made during that 10 minutes to reach parents, but in no instance will library staff take anyone home.

People who do not adhere to this policy will be asked to leave and violations of this policy could result in a suspension of library privileges.

This policy was approved on November 27, 2017 by the Eureka Public Library Board of Trustees

Reviewed by EPLD Board November 23, 2020

Updated, approved by Board of Trustees, November 27, 2023