

CHANDLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Unattended Children Policy

The Chandler Public Library staff hopes that children who use the library will see it as a warm, inviting, and interesting place to be. Many programs are offered to make the library enticing to children and to help them enjoy their visits, as well as to develop love of books, reading, and libraries.

However, if children are left unattended for several hours, they often become bored and restless, disturbing the enjoyment of others.

Each year in the United States, over 50,000 children are abducted and never found. Young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. The staff cannot know if the children are leaving the building with parents or with strangers. For the protection and well being of the children who enjoy the library, the following policy has been established.

Responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone, not with library staff. Children under the age of ten (10) may not be left out of the direct sight of a parent/guardian or chaperone. If the parent/guardian has not been located, or if the library is closing, a staff member shall call the police who will assume responsibility for the child.

Any child between the ages of 10-13 may not be left unattended for more than 2 hours. When unattended children between the ages of 10-13 are left in the library unsupervised by a parent/guardian or chaperone for more than two hours, or not picked up at closing time, staff will attempt to contact the parents. If the parent/guardian or chaperone has not been located, or if the library is closing, a staff member shall call the police who will assume responsibility for the child.

Appropriate activities for library use include: doing homework, writing reports, researching, browsing for materials, thinking, daydreaming, and reading. If games, puzzles, or listening areas are available, they are to be used quietly so as not to disturb others.

Disruptive patrons may be barred from the library for an amount of time to be determined by the Library Manager. The parent shall be informed of this action in writing.