

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

### **Lockport Public Library**

The Lockport Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. Services and programs are offered to make the library enticing to children, to encourage them to visit the library and to develop a love of books, reading and libraries.

We do not encourage unattended children in the library. The library is a public building and staff cannot know if children are leaving the building with parents or strangers or unaccompanied. The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Library staff members have many duties and cannot supervise children nor act as a substitute for daycare.

For the protection and well being of children who enjoy the library and to prevent undue disruption of ongoing library services, the Lockport Public Library has adopted the following rules:

1. Children age 9 and younger may not be left unattended in the Lockport Public Library. Children must be accompanied by a responsible person – an adult or a mature adolescent (12 years of age or older).
2. Parents/guardians or chaperones are responsible for their children's behavior while in the library.
3. Children ages 10 and older may use the library unattended, but must display acceptable library behavior. The library cannot act "in loco parentis" or be responsible for the safety and well-being of children ages 10 or above who are unaccompanied in the library.
4. Staff members are not allowed to assume responsibility for any child in the absence of the parent/guardian/chaperone, even for a short period of time.

Policy adopted: 12/13/06

Board of Trustees  
Lockport Public Library