

Lansing Public Library Safe Child Policy

The Lansing Public Library endeavors to provide a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for all library users. The library encourages children of all ages to visit and take advantage of the resources available for them. The library, however, is a public building. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. Library team members do not serve *in loco parentis*, in place of the parents, for children in the library or on library property. Team members assume neither responsibility nor liability for the actions, safety, care, or supervision of children at any age. Therefore, the following policy will be enforced:

Children under 11 years old and in 5th grade or under

- Children under 11 years old must be accompanied and attended to within the library or on library property, by an adult or mature adolescent, 16 years or older, who assumes full responsibility for the safety and behavior of those in their care. Children under 8 years old must remain in the visual range of their adult or mature adolescent.
- If it is determined that a child under 11 years old has been left unattended in the building, a library team member will call the parent or caregiver, if they have that information, and request that they pick up their child. If a parent, or caregiver, cannot be reached within 30 minutes, or if they do not respond in 30 minutes, the Lansing Police will be asked to assume responsibility of the child or children.

Children ages 11 and older and in 6th grade or over

- Children ages 11 years and older who can understand and follow the library's Behavior Policy, and who can care for themselves without assistance, are allowed to be in the library unattended. They should have contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency, and respect the rights and safety of others.

Unattended children at closing

- Transportation for children at the library, regardless of age, must be arranged prior to the library's closing time and children must be picked up by the library's closing time. The Lansing Library reserves the right to notify the Lansing Police if children are left for more than 15 minutes after the library's regular closing time. Children ages 11 years and older and in 6th grade, or over can be left outside the locked doors to wait for their rides to pick them up from the library.