

Lawton Public Library SAFE CHILD POLICY

Lawton Public Library welcomes children of all ages. Library staff members strive to provide a safe and appropriate environment for all library users. However, the library is a public building and is open to anyone. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended even for brief periods of time. Due to the many responsibilities of the library staff, monitoring of each child's behavior and location is not possible. Library employees do not take over parental responsibilities for children when they come into the library.

Unattended Children

Parents and other caregivers are solely responsible for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library. Additionally, children under the age of twelve (12) must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible caregiver age sixteen (16) or older at all times while they are in the library. If a child under the age of twelve (12) is found to be unattended in any area of the library or an unattended child twelve (12) or older is found frightened, crying, or otherwise in distress, staff will attempt to locate the child's caregiver. If library staff cannot find the child's parent or caregiver, the police will be notified and asked to assume care of the child.

Abandoned Children at Closing

When a child under the age of fourteen (14) years old is left in the library at closing, two staff members will stay with the child until the child is picked up or turned over to the police.

Library Board Approved: 9/6/23