Unattended Child Policy:
Open Hours

The staff of the Alexandrian Public Library is concerned about the safety and well-being of all its library users. All children are welcomed and encouraged to make use of the library collections. Programs are created especially for children to encourage lifelong appreciation of books, reading and library resources.

In all situations, the parent/guardian/caregiver of a minor child on library property, whether indoors or outdoors, is responsible for the care and safety of the child.

Library staff members cannot monitor the location and behavior of each child on the library property, cannot assume parent/guardian/caregiver responsibilities for children who are in the library, and cannot assure the safety of an unattended child. It is not the duty of any staff member to baby-sit, supervise or entertain any child left alone in the library.

No child – regardless of age – may engage in disruptive behavior at any time, as outlined in the “Appropriate Use Policy”.

Preschool children should be in sight of and supervised by a parent/guardian/caregiver.  The parent/guardian/caregiver of preschool children is expected to remain in the library while the children are attending library programs.

Older children who are able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended; otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent/guardian/caregiver.

If staff members observe a child unattended for an extended period of time, they may deem it necessary to contact a parent/guardian/caregiver. In that situation, the Library Director or person in charge may, as needed, notify the parent/guardian/caregiver whose children need supervision. A written copy of the library’s Unattended Child Policy will be given to the parent/guardian/caregiver.

In cases where the parent/guardian/caregiver could not be reached, or the parent/guardian/caregiver had been previously informed by the library about their unattended child, the library director or person in charge may contact authorities such as the police either to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library or to ensure the safety of an unattended child.