

## **Shiocton Public Library Safe Child Policy**

The safety of children left alone in the library is a serious concern of the library staff. The staff, however, has many duties to perform in order to serve all the residents of the community. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort.

Preschool children should be in sight of and supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver of 12 years or older. Parents or caregivers of preschool children are expected to remain in the library while children are attending library programs. Staff may, as needed, notify parents, guardians, or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision. Older children able to maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended; otherwise they should be adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver.

Children attending library sponsored programs will be supervised by the library staff in the program setting. While every effort will be made to keep children at the program, library staff cannot physically restrain any individual from leaving the library. Parents dropping their children off at the library for programs should not assume the library is then responsible for them. Parents are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their child's behavior. The library cannot and will not assume responsibility for any child, unattended or otherwise, either while he/she is in the building or after he/she has exited the premises.

Parents must be aware of the library's hours and must arrange to pick up their children by closing time. Staff will make a reasonable effort to assure that children leave the library comfortably and safely at closing time. If any children remain at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff will contact the Police Department to ensure safe transport. Under no circumstance will the library personnel transport or escort the child to any location off the premises.

Adoption Date: May 9, 2012