

## Safe Child Policy

### 1.0 Purpose:

To insure the safety and well-being of children using the library.

### 2.0 Definition:

Unattended children are children of any age who are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver in the library.

### 3.0 Policy:

The Nederland Community Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Library staff are available to assist and support children with their use of library resources and to provide a welcoming environment. However, neither the library nor its staff members act in place of parents and library staff are not responsible for children who are left unattended on library premises. Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of their children at all times in the Nederland Community Library and on library property, whether or not they are present. The library respects the privacy of all patrons and will intervene only when a child is believed to be at risk, disturbing other patrons, or is endangering him or herself or others.

- Children may use the library unattended, at the discretion of a responsible adult.
- Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the library and must have adequate supervision while in the library.
- The library staff cannot provide childcare or assume parental responsibility for children's safety.
- All children, like all library users, are expected to behave in a manner that respects library property and that is appropriate to the use and function of the library.
- If a child behaves in a disruptive manner, the child may be asked to correct their behavior. Library staff may, at their discretion, contact a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver, or direct the child to leave the library.
- When an unattended child has not been picked up at close of library business, the child has a health emergency, appears to be lost, is being disruptive, or if in the judgment of staff, his or her safety is jeopardized, library staff will make an attempt to contact an appropriate adult.
- If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, the library staff may notify appropriate law enforcement or child protective authorities and place the child in their protective custody.

### 4.0 Attachments: N/A

### 5.0 Revision History: Rev -0- Initial Issue

