

## **Unattended Children Policy**

### **Caldwell Public Library**

Children are welcomed and encouraged to use the Caldwell Public Library's resources and services and participate in programs. Library staff strives to provide a safe and appropriate environment for all library users.

#### **Guidelines for Supervision:**

The Caldwell Public Library acknowledges that the maturity of children at the same age varies. These rules are subject to the discretion of library staff, who may apply them to children other than the ages stated below, if they deem necessary.

- The library is not responsible for the safety or security of children left unattended.
- Children age six and younger must be in close proximity and within sight of the adult responsible for their safety.
- Children age eight or younger, or vulnerable people of any age, must be supervised by a caregiver age fourteen or older in the same service area at all times while they are in the library.
- Caregivers (age fourteen and older) must be able to effectively supervise any child in their care, and be able to provide contact information for a parent or guardian upon request.
- Children age nine and older are free to use the library's resources unattended, provided that their behavior is not disruptive to other patrons. Parents or guardians are still responsible for the actions and well-being of their children. Children exhibiting inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the library. If a child is not able to safely leave the library unaccompanied by an adult or responsible caregiver, he/she should not be left in the library alone.
- If any child is found to be unattended in the library and is frightened, alone, 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 Caldwell Police Department will be notified and asked to assume care of the child. Library staff members are not permitted to give rides to children.
- Repeat violations of the unattended child policy may result in loss of library privileges for the child and parent, guardian, and/or caregiver.

#### **Closing Procedure:**

If library staff observes unattended children on library premises at closing time, the staff member will attempt to notify the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian has not arrived at closing, the Caldwell Police Department will be called and asked to assume care of the child. Library staff will remain with the child until the police officer arrives.