

## **Unattended Children**

The library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books, reading and learning. However:

- Because the library is a place where children gather, it may attract people whose interest in children is not entirely wholesome.
- The safety and well-being of children at the library is of serious concern.
- Responsibility for children using the library rests at all times with the parent (s) or assigned caregiver (s), not with library personnel.
- The library staff has leeway to intervene if aware of disruptive behavior.
- The staff cannot know if children are leaving the building with their parents or strangers.

For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy libraries, the following has been established:

- Children under eight (8) years must be continually attended by a parent or a caregiver while in the library.
- Parents and caregivers should be familiar with the library's hours of operation and should not leave children before opening or after closing.
- The library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closed, but will make attempts to reach a parent for immediate pick-up.
- The police department will be notified of any child who has been left too long or repeatedly in this unsafe situation.