

## **Krum Public Library Unattended Children Policy**

(August 2013)

Approved by Krum Library Advisory Board August 20, 2013

Approved by Krum City Council September 9, 2013

Reviewed by Krum Library Advisory Board September 20, 2016

Reviewed by Krum Public Library Advisory Board Sept. 21, 2021

The Krum Public Library encourages children of all ages to visit the library and hope they will find it a warm, inviting place to quietly read, learn and study. However, the well-being and security of young children left unattended is a serious concern.

Parents and guardians are reminded that the library is a public building. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the care or supervision of children using the library outside scheduled library programs. The Library does not serve as a baby-sitting or day-care service, and the library staff has responsibilities that prevent them from providing appropriate supervision of children. At all times the parent or guardian is responsible for the care and supervision of the child, not any of the library staff members.

That being said, if a parent or guardian decides to leave a child unattended in the library, the following guidelines must be met:

1. Children under the age of 7 years must be accompanied by a caregiver (age 13 or older) at all times.
2. Children ages 7-11 may be left alone in the library for reasonable periods of time, but again parents must be aware that the library cannot care for or supervise the children. Parents remain responsible for their children's behavior and will be contacted if necessary. "Reasonable periods of time" may vary with the child's maturity and may be determined by library staff.
3. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are required to be at the library no later than 15 minutes before closing to pick up their children.
4. Should problems arise, the library may ask the child to leave or contact a parent. If the library staff is unable to reach the parents, the Krum Police Department will be called.
5. If a child needs medical attention we will call 911.