



Policy 5.2 Children Alone in the Library

Adopted by Library Board of Trustees
10/22/09

5.2. Children Alone in the Library

The North Olympic Library welcomes children to the library. Staff members are available to help children with library materials or services. While the library desires to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages, the library is not equipped to provide long or short-term child care. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent (or guardian, or care giver assigned by the parent), and not with library staff. The library is a public building and parents/guardians should exercise judgment in deciding whether to leave a child unattended in such a facility. NOLS strongly recommends that children not be left unattended in any library facility.

Children, either attended or unattended, are expected to abide by the same rules of conduct as all library patrons (see Policy 5.1), and may be asked to leave the library if their behavior is inappropriate. If library staff are unable to locate a parent or guardian to assist with the enforcement of discipline in the library, or to ensure the safety of an unattended child, staff may need to contact authorities, such as the police or sheriff. Standard library procedures and guidelines will be followed in assisting or removing unattended children.