

Unattended Children

The Library Board and staff of the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library encourage children to come to the Library and explore all the possibilities available to them. However, Library staff is also concerned about the welfare and safety of children when they are left unattended. The Library cannot be responsible for the care and safety of children while they are on the Library premises. Out of concern for the safety and welfare of children visiting the Library, the Library Board has adopted the following policy:

1. All children age five and younger must be accompanied at all times by an adult or an adolescent at least 12 years of age while on Library premises. If a child age 5 and younger is attending a Library program where attendance by an adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age is not required, the adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age must stay in the Library during the program.
2. Children who are six and seven years old may be left without supervision in the Youth Services Department for a maximum of 15 minutes if the adult who accompanied them is in the Library. However, the Library staff cannot be responsible for any unattended children.
3. Children who are 8 years old and older may visit the Library by themselves and are subject to the policy regarding acceptable behavior in the Library.
4. The Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the Library after hours. Unattended children under 12 years of age present at the Library 15 minutes before the Library closes will be asked to phone a parent to pick them up. If a parent has not picked the child up by 15 minutes after the Library has closed, the library staff will call the Zionsville Police Department to come pick up the child. Parents will need to retrieve their child at the police station.

Parents dropping off children outside the Library should first ensure that the Library is open. The Library is not necessarily open to the public when there are lights on in the building.

5. The Youth Services Department includes an enclosed interactive area called the Exploration Station, where children are invited to explore a number of play options. Monitoring of children within this enclosed area is the responsibility of the parent or attending guardian. Age limits for attended / unattended children are the same as outlined above.
6. Parents attending meetings on Library property whether sponsored by an outside group or the Library must
 - leave their children at home,
 - keep their children with them in the meeting, or
 - have them adequately supervised by an accompanying adult or adolescent age 12 or older outside of the meeting or workshop.

The adult caregivers who bring or allow others to bring minor children under the age of 18 onto Library property shall be solely responsible for the care and safety of such children at all times and while such children are on Library property. The Library cannot be responsible for the care or supervision of minor children while on Library property including during travel to and from Library property.