

Section II: Service Policies

TITLE: Unattended Children Policy

Lake Villa District Library (LVDL) welcomes children of all ages to use its facility, programs, collections and resources. During the COVID-19 pandemic, caregivers should be aware that the amount of time any patron can be on library premises is limited and will vary at the sole discretion of library staff. This policy is established for the protection and well-being of children who visit the library.

- LVDL is a public facility. The library cannot guarantee the safety of children who visit its building or grounds.
- Staff cannot assume responsibility for the care or supervision of children who visit the library building or its grounds.
- While in the library building or on its grounds, all visitors are subject to library rules and policies regarding behavior. (See Patron Behavior Policy.) The behavior of children remains the responsibility of a parent and/or caregiver.
- When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or the parent or caregiver cannot be located, library staff are authorized to call the police and stay with the child until the police arrive.
- Children younger than ten (10) years old must be chaperoned by a parent or caregiver of high school age or older.
- Children younger than seven (7) years old must be directly and closely supervised by a parent or caregiver of high school age or older.
- When a child under ten (10) years of age is participating in a library program that does not require direct supervision of the child by a parent or caregiver, a parent or caregiver is still required to remain in the building and be available.
- Children may use the library unattended if they are ten (10) years of age or older and able to communicate their full name, their parent or caregiver's name, and their parent or caregiver's phone number to library staff upon request.
- Library hours are posted, and the building is locked promptly at closing. The library does not assume responsibility for an unattended child who remains at closing. At least two staff members will remain with the child, during which time attempts will be made to reach a parent or caregiver. If a parent or caregiver cannot be reached or will not arrive within 15 minutes of the library closing, the police will be called.
- Library staff are prohibited from transporting or accompanying a child home or to any other location.

Adopted: April 9, 2007

Revised: 11/13, 6/19, 8/20