UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Children who are left unattended or appear to be in the facility without adult supervision can be a cause of concern to the Library. Issues of safety, liability, and responsibility mandate that the Library address this situation with the following rules:

- Children under the age of seven must be attended by a parent or responsible childcare provider while in the Library.
- Children between the ages of four and seven attending a Library program must be brought into the building by a parent or responsible child care provider who must remain in the building until the conclusion of the program, when they resume supervision of the child.
- A parent or responsible childcare provider must attend children under the age of four at all times.
- If an unattended child exhibits disruptive behavior, a staff member will attempt to locate the parent or childcare provider. If a staff member is unable to locate the parent or provider, the police may be notified.
- If a child under the age of 18 is left without transportation after library closing hours, the police may be notified.

Disruptive Behavior

**Definition**

Disruptive behavior is an action as prohibited in the *Conduct in the Library* policy.

**Consequences**

Enforcement of these rules for children under the age seven may take the following forms, depending on the severity of the disruptive behavior, which will be determined by the staff on duty.

- In most cases, an attended child under seven who engages in disruptive behavior will be given one warning. If a child does not modify his/her behavior after one warning, the parent or childcare provider may be asked to take the child out of the Library.
- For children under seven who engage in disruptive behavior and are not attended by a parent or childcare provider, the staff member on duty will ask the child to correct his/her behavior and take appropriate action as outlined in the *Unattended Children* portion of this policy.