

SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Policy on Unsupervised Children in the Library

Adopted: 12/88, 9/8/98, 6/9/03
Amended: 4/8/97, 8/11/98, 8/21/01, 5/13/03
Reviewed: 3/4/91, 4/8/97, 8/11/98, 9/8/98, 8/21/01, 5/13/03, 6/9/03

The library is dedicated to providing free access to information to the entire community in a safe and pleasant library environment.

Children are welcome in the library and encouraged to use its resources and services. The library is not, however, an after-school or day-care facility. The library cannot assume responsibility for the care and safety of unsupervised children. In the best interests of the children, parents should make regular after-school or day-care arrangements for children who cannot go home after school. A list of local resources is available from the children's librarian.

During open hours:

Children under the age of 11 may not use the library unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Older brothers, sisters, or caretakers under the age of 18 are not considered adequate supervisors.

Children of any age who behave in such a manner as to disrupt the library environment will be subject to the "Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior". Disruptive behavior includes any situation, which causes the child, other library patrons, or library staff distress or concern whether or not the parent/caregiver is present.

Regardless of the age of the child, parents of a disruptive/unsupervised child will be asked to control the child's behavior or remove the child from the library immediately if requested by staff.

At closing time:

If a child is left unattended at closing time, staff will make a reasonable effort to locate the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian has not arrived within a period of 15 minutes after the posted closing time, staff will turn the child over to the South Pasadena Police Department.