

Kimball Library Unattended Children Policy

The Kimball Library welcomes children and encourages them to read, explore various electronic formats, attend programs and make full use of the library resources. We hope to build a lifelong relationship with our youngest patrons.

Although staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children using the Library, our facilities are not designed or licensed to provide childcare. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is unattended by a responsible adult or caregiver. The Kimball Library staff cannot act in loco parentis.

The Library reminds parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users. Children should be supervised at all times and reminded that the materials in the Library must be treated with care. With these considerations in mind, the following rules apply:

- Children under the age of ten must be accompanied by a responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older; they may not be left unattended in the Library for any amount of time. The responsible caregiver must have contact information for an adult who is legally responsible for the child. Exceptions may be made for special library programs.
- Children 5 years old and younger must be directly supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older in all rooms of the Library including the Children's Room.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library, whether or not the parent or guardian is present.
- At the discretion of the parent or guardian, children ages 10 and up may be left unattended in the Library for a reasonable period of time to select materials, work on homework or attend a library program. The child must know how to reach the parent or guardian or responsible caregiver (aged 16 or older) should the need arise. Children should not be left for excessively long (more than 3 hours) periods of time.
- If children are left unattended for long periods repeatedly, the Library may notify the parents of the library's policies.
- Children must be picked up no later than 5 minutes before closing time. Children should avoid the parking lot and wait inside the building. Children left unattended at closing time will have the opportunity to contact an adult. If no contact can be made, or if a ride has not arrived within 10 minutes of closing, the police will be called to supervise the child until the adult arrives. Library employees are not allowed to transport children to another location. Please note that the Library closes at 8:00 PM Monday through Thursday, at 5:00 PM on Friday and at 3:00 PM on Saturday.