

## **The Norwin Public Library**

### **Unattended Child Policy**

Adopted by the Norwin Public Board of Trustees June 2013

The Norwin Public Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. However, the care, safety and behavior of children using the library is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or a caregiver.

- The library is not responsible for the safety or well being of any patron beyond the extent reasonably expected of a public facility.
- The library staff does not provide care or supervision of children in the library except to the extent needed to uphold the library rules of conduct and use.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the appropriate behavior of their children in the library.
- Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver. Children at least 12 years of age may provide brief periods of supervision while an adult caregiver is at the restroom, checking out a book, using the computer, etc.
- Children age 12 or older may be in the library unattended for a reasonable period of time if checking out books, doing research or homework, or are otherwise legitimately engaged in library activities. Library appropriate behavior is expected.
- The library staff is not responsible for any child who is left unattended.
- The library staff is not responsible for preventing children from leaving the library or its grounds.
- Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary shall be accompanied by a suitable caregiver at all times.
- Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and are subject to the same consequences, including being asked to leave the Library.
- When the safety of an unattended child is in doubt, or if the library is closing and a parent, guardian or other caregiver cannot be located, **library staff is authorized to call the Irwin Police Department and two members of the staff will stay with the child until the police arrive. Under no circumstance will staff take young people home.**
- Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges.
- The library management will have the final determination if a child may use the library unattended.