

The Augusta Public Library encourages children of all ages to visit the library and hopes they will find it a warm, inviting place to be. The happiness and safety of children left alone in a public building is of serious concern. Unattended children may become frightened, anxious, or bored. Older children cannot be expected to deal with a small child who is frightened, tired, or ill. Library staff have many public duties and cannot serve as babysitters. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. We ask your cooperation in the following areas as we strive to make the library a safe and happy place for your child.

1. All children 4 years old and under must be in the company of and supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver when in the library.
2. Children ages *5-7 years old must have a responsible caregiver in the building and available to them.
3. Children ages 8 years old and older are responsible for their own behavior in the library and must follow library rules and regulations. Any child 8 or older who is left unattended must have a means of contacting his/her parent or guardian. The library courtesy phone is available for local calls.
4. The library staff will attempt to contact parents of children whose safety is in doubt. If parents are unavailable, the library staff will contact the police department to provide custody.
5. A child of any age who is unaccompanied by a responsible adult or a caregiver for an extended period of time (more than 4 hours or over the course of mealtimes) may be approached for information concerning his/her parent's availability.
6. All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.
7. If any child has not been picked up at closing, the Library will contact the police to provide custody.

*Grade school children of all ages are welcome to ride the school bus, following school requirements, to the library for sponsored programs and activities, provided their parent or guardian has arranged a ride for them following the conclusion of the program. Due to the busy and sometimes chaotic nature of these events, library staff are unable to manage how and with whom a child leaves the library.