



## **ATTENTION PARENTS:**

### **Unattended Children Policy**

1. Children under the age of 8 must have a responsible adult with them at all times. (An adult is defined as someone age 18 and older). The adult must remain in sight and conversation distance of the child at all times.
2. Children ages 8-11 may be left unattended for short periods of time but must have a responsible caregiver in the library at all times for the duration of the visit. In general, the library considers more than twenty minutes in the library without in-person caregiver/guardian oversight to be excessive. The caregiver must be at least 14 years old and have the number of where a parent/guardian can be reached in case of emergency.
3. Children age 12 and above are welcome to use the library unattended but not for extended periods of time. We expect parents to set limits for their children's library visits. In general, the library considers more than three hours in the library without a parent or caregiver present excessive and inappropriate. Parents should be certain to provide their children with an emergency number where they can be reached at all times.
4. A child under the age of 18 with no means of getting home at the time the library closes is considered a stranded minor. The police will be notified 10 minutes after closing to take custody of the stranded minor if staff has been unsuccessful reaching a parent or guardian and the child has no means of getting home.
5. If a child is left in the care of someone deemed not responsible by library staff, parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick up the child immediately from the library.
6. If a child is left unattended in the library for an extended period of time, the library staff will also contact the parent/guardian responsible for the child. If no one is available, the staff reserves the right to notify police if deemed necessary.
7. Parents should be aware of the library hours and arrive at least 10 minutes before closing to be certain their child is picked up before the library closes for the evening. For up to date hours of operation, please call the library at 732-329-4000 ext. 7290 or check the library's website at [www.sbpl.info](http://www.sbpl.info).

**Thank you for your cooperation**

**Revised and Re-adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on October 20, 2022**