

## **UNATTEND CHILDREN POLICY**

### **Streator Public Library**

The Streator Public Library encourages the use of the library by children of all ages. While the library wishes to offer a safe environment for all patrons, the responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver of the child and not with library staff members.

Children under the age of 10 are not to be left unattended in the library under any circumstances.

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or caregiver. The caregiver must be at least 16 years of age.

The parent/guardian or caregiver must remain with the child during the entire time period the child is in the library. A child may attend a library sponsored workshop or program alone, however, the parent/guardian or caregiver must remain in the library and be available should care or supervision of the child be required.

In the event a child below the age of 10 is left unattended, an attempt will be made to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the Streator Police Department will be contacted.

If children age 13 and under are present in the library at closing time or at the time of an emergency closing, the library staff shall attempt to contact a parent/guardian by phone to come pick up the child immediately. If the attempt is unsuccessful the librarian in charge will contact the police department. Two staff members will wait with the child until the police arrive to take custody of the child.

Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other library patrons and are subject to the same consequences. A parent/guardian of a child will be contacted if the minor's behavior in the library is a problem.

The library reserves the right to revoke use of the library and its grounds for repeated disregard of this policy.