

**Wright Memorial Public Library  
Unattended Child Policy**

In an effort to provide a library environment that allows all patrons to use library materials and services in a safe, relaxed manner, the Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees has adopted a policy statement concerning unattended or disruptive children.

The staff of the Wright Memorial Public Library is concerned about the safety of all library users, especially children. The staff strives to make the library an enjoyable place to visit so patrons will want to return many times.

Library staff members cannot, however, supervise children or function as substitute baby sitters. Parents and responsible patrons need to be as careful of their children's safety in the library as they would be in a shopping mall or any other public building.

Children under age seven may not be left unattended in any part of the library. Unattended means not within sight of the caregiver, with the exception of a story time where it has been specified that the adult is not required to stay with the child. An older child of at least age ten, such as a sibling or babysitter, may serve as the caregiver for a child under age seven, and must attend to the younger child as described above.

Children ages seven through seventeen may use the library unattended. Parents are still responsible for the actions of their children.

Library staff members are not available to deliver messages to children (or other patrons) in the library, except in emergency situations, or to check and report on their whereabouts to parents or caregivers who call.

Staff members are not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child, or to leave library premises with an unattended child at any time.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department may be called to assume responsibility for an unattended child after the library has closed, or to assume responsibility for a disruptive child whose parent or caregiver cannot be reached.

Approved by the Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees on August 18, 2008