

Jackson-George Regional Library System

Unattended Children Policy

The eight branches of the Jackson-George Regional Library System are committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment for children and their families. The libraries provide materials, programs, and services for children. It is our goal for children to use the libraries safely and effectively. In order to achieve this goal, we ask for the parent or caregiver to assist us in providing a positive experience when visiting any of the JGRLS branches.

Unattended Children:

Preschool-aged children should be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times. Children in this age group should not be left alone while their parent/caregiver uses the public computers, locates materials, attends programs, or utilizes any other library services. When library staff members encounter unattended preschool children, they will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver. Parents or caregivers who fail to adhere to this policy may be subject to loss of privileges.

Elementary-aged children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent, caregiver, or caregiver aged 16 or older; the caregiver must remain in the immediate vicinity and in visual range of the child. When library staff members encounter unattended children under age 10, they will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver. An exception can be made for children in this age group to attend the Summer Reading Program or other relevant programs, however, parents or caregivers who fail to adhere to this policy may be subject to loss of privileges.

Caregivers accompanying children in either of these age groups must be 16 years of age or older with identification, such as a library card, school ID, driver's license, learner's permit, or other official identification. Parents or caregivers who fail to adhere to this policy may be subject to loss of library privileges.

Disruptive Children of All Ages:

As stated in the library "Rules of Conduct", disruptive behavior in the library is not permitted. If a child violates these rules, the child and the parent or caregiver will be informed of the rules by library staff and instructed to comply. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the child or the family may be asked to leave the library. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in loss of privileges or the requirement that a child regardless of age be supervised by a parent or adult caregiver at all times during their use of the library.

Children Left at the Library at Closing:

Children of all ages must have transportation at the library's closing. Announcements of closing will be made at all branches at approximately 30, 15, and 5 minutes before the library's closing time. A phone will be provided prior to closing for children to arrange for a ride home. Library staff will not provide transportation for children. If the parent or caregiver cannot be contacted or if they do not arrive within 15 minutes after the library's closing, the library staff will call the police department to pick up the child. It will be the parent's or caregiver's responsibility to contact the police department regarding their child. Parents who habitually do not pick up their children at closing will be in jeopardy of losing library privileges.