

Who's Watching Your Kids?

Would you leave your child alone in a shopping mall to play or read? Although the library is a fun and entertaining place to be, it is also a busy public facility and all public places can present hazards for unsupervised children. The South Pasadena Public Library has a policy that states "Children under the age of 11 may not use the library unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Older brothers, sisters, or caretakers under the age of 18 are not considered adequate supervisors." Children are welcome in the library but we are concerned about their safety and welfare. Parent and caregivers should be aware that they are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behavior of their children while the children are in the library.

If an unattended child is being disruptive, is habitually left unattended for long periods of time, or could be at risk of coming to harm, as in the case of a child being left unattended when the library is ready to close, an effort will be made to locate the responsible parent, guardian, or caregiver. If unable to contact the responsible adult, the library will notify the police to take custody of the child.

Many parents are unaware of the potential problems that could arise for unsupervised children in the library. Library personnel do not always know the full names and addresses of the children who are in the library and do not have access to the child's emergency information, such as the parent's names and telephone numbers or the child's particular medical conditions. Librarians are often busy answering reference questions during the afternoons and are not always able to monitor the children who are in the library. Parents may think that their child is spending the afternoons quietly studying at the library when, in fact, their child has been in classrooms for six hours already and is more likely to be roaming around the library visiting with friends, an activity which can present problems for other customers.



For the safety and well-being of your children, please come with them to the library. Spend some family time with them.

South Pasadena Public Library
1100 Oxley Street * South Pasadena, CA 91030
(626) 403-7358