

Berne Public Library

Safe Child Policy

Children under 8 years of age must be directly supervised by a parent, caregiver, or sibling (age 12 or older) during their entire library visit. The library staff respects the privacy of all library patrons and will intervene only when, in the opinion of the library staff, the safety and well-being of a child is threatened.

- Parents/caregivers may not leave children seven and under unattended in the library at any time.
- The library in no way assumes responsibility for children of any age left unattended in the building.
- Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child's behavior while in the library and for ensuring that their children obey library rules and regulations.
- Children are expected to remain in the programming area during children's programs. If parents believe their child is unable to be attentive for the entire time, they must monitor their child personally. The library staff is not responsible for children who leave the area.
- Parents/caregivers must remain in the library during library-sponsored programs if the child is seven or under, and must pick up the child at the conclusion of the program.
- Parents/caregivers of older children are responsible for making specific arrangements for the child to get home, and make the child aware of those arrangements.
- Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home or take the child outside the building.
- Parents who continue to disregard library policies may be reported to the appropriate social service agency and/or lose all library privileges.
- Under the following circumstances, the child will be placed in the care of law enforcement. The library staff respects the privacy of all library patrons and will intervene only when the safety and wellbeing of the child are threatened.
 - If a child seven or under is found unattended, the parent or caregiver cannot be located, and the parent/caregiver does not return within 1/2 hour.
 - If a child becomes extremely ill or distraught, and the parent/caregiver cannot be located.
 - If a child becomes extremely disruptive, endangers other children, and does not respond to verbal warnings issued by the library staff, and the parent/caregiver cannot be located.
 - If a child is vulnerable because of circumstances such as weather conditions, inadequate meal arrangements, or long hours out of contact with their parent/caregiver.
 - Once the child has been placed in the care of law enforcement personnel, the library staff will inform all other library employees working that day, and continue their attempts to locate the parent/caregiver

Reviewed 2/17/2026