

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.



Adopted by Berne Public Library
Board of Directors
8/19/14



BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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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.

CHILDREN'S
DEPARTMENT

Philosophy Behind Our Safe Child Policy

We are glad your children are here! We want the Berne Public Library to be a welcoming, educational, and safe place for you child.

Our library staff is here to serve you, but when several people want assistance, they cannot be responsible for continuously watching each child.

No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. A child could be lured away by a stranger or become ill. A child could wander outside and become injured. We are primarily concerned about your child's safety, and we feel this policy better assures his or her well-being.

Therefore, the behavior and welfare of children in the library are the responsibility of their parent or guardian. For the safety and protection of young library users, the Berne Public



Library has adopted the following policy concerning children left unattended in the library.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

1. *Parents or caregivers may not leave children under 8 years of age unattended in the library at any time. Someone over the age of 12 must provide direct supervision the entire visit. The parent or caregiver cannot be upstairs while the child is downstairs.*
2. The library in no way assumes responsibility for children of any age left unattended in the building.
3. Parents/caregivers are responsible for their child's behavior while in the library and for ensuring that their children obey library rules and regulations.
4. 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 if a child leaves the programming area.
5. Parents/caregivers must remain in the library during library-sponsored programs if their child is under 8 years old.
6. Parents/caregivers of older children are responsible for making specific arrangements for the child to get home, and making the child aware of those arrangements.
7. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home from the library.
8. Parents who continue to disregard library policies may be reported to the appropriate social service agency and/or lose all library privileges.

9. 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 well-being of the child are threatened.

—If a child under 8 years of age is found unattended, the parent or caregiver cannot be located.

—If a child under 8 years of age is unattended, the parent has been contacted but does not pick up the child within 30 minutes.

—If any child becomes extremely ill or distraught, and the parent/caregiver cannot be located.

—If any child becomes extremely disruptive, endangers other children, and does not respond to instructions from the library staff, and the parent/caregiver cannot be located.

—If any 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.