



SAFE CHILD POLICY

The Allendale Township Library provides an array of service for children from birth to high school and the library welcomes and encourages frequent visits by children and their caregivers. However, library staff cannot provide childcare or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children.

Children are expected to behave in a manner conducive to maintaining an appropriate atmosphere in the building for all patrons. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency and both children and adults need to be aware of library hours.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

An unattended child is a child of any age who is apparently unaccompanied by a responsible adult. Parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers may not leave children alone or in the care of other children who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care. Supervising adults must be close at hand. As in any public place, strangers are a valid concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not their appropriate chaperone. If the library is closing, at a regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building or parking lot, the Ottawa County Police Department will be contacted to take the child.

The Allendale Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibilities.