



Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library  
18 Church Street, Vermillion, SD, 57069 ▪ (605) 677-7060 ▪ [www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org](http://www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org)

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## **Unattended Children Policy**

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library (Library) encourages visits by children and wants their visits to be memorable and enjoyable.

“Unattended” means that the parent or responsible person is not in close proximity to the child. Parents are responsible for their children’s behavior in the Library. Library staff cannot assume liability for children’s safety and behavior. The Library does not provide long or short-term child care.

It is the policy of the Library that all children under the age of five (5) must be in the company of a parent/care provider who is twelve (12) or older while in the library. Children must be directly supervised by the parent/care provider at all times. Directly supervised means in sight of and in the immediate vicinity of the child, and being actively watched.

If a child is attending a program where adult supervision is not required, an adult should meet the child in the Library after the program concludes.

In the event a Library staff member discovers a child unattended by an adult, steps may be taken in an effort to ensure the child’s welfare and safety. Library staff will attempt to locate the child’s parent/care provider. If a parent/care provider is in the Library, they will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children. If a parent/care provider continues to leave an under five years old unattended, they may be asked to leave the premises.

If a parent/care provider is not found in the Library, staff will attempt to contact the parent/care provider. A parent/care provider, when contacted will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children.

If a parent/care provider cannot be reached or is not willing or able to supervise the child, law enforcement or Department of Social Services may be called to escort the child home or keep the child until a parent/care provider can be reached.

Children age five and over may be in the Library alone as long as they adhere to the Library’s rules of conduct. In the instance that a patron under the age of eighteen is not cooperative and/or does not follow the rules of conduct, Library staff will alert the parent/care provider and ask for his/her assistance. Should a patron under the age of eighteen consistently violate the rules of conduct, Library staff will require that a parent/care provider be with them at all times when they are at the library.

Children should know how to contact a parent/care provider in case of emergency.

The Library staff is not permitted to give an unattended child a ride home.