

JOHN STAHL LIBRARY UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The John Stahl Library welcomes youth to use its facilities and services. However, the library is not a playground, recreation center, or day care facility. Noisy or physically active behavior appropriate in such facilities is not appropriate in the library. Section 51-212 of the Nebraska Statutes specifically gives public libraries the power to regulate the use of the library and to exclude from the library persons who violate or refuse to comply with the library's rules and regulations. In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library activities, to provide for the general safety of children using the John Stahl Library the following policies are adopted.

1. All children seven years or younger shall, at all times, be attended OR adequately supervised by a responsible person. Children may be left unattended at scheduled library programs. A responsible person should plan to be at the library when the program concludes.
2. Children with special needs related to physical or mental ability shall be attended by a responsible party as needed. Library staff cannot be expected to provide constant care or oversight.
3. Children eight years and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the John Stahl Library.
4. The John Stahl Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.
5. If library staff judges that any unattended child is not acting appropriately, a staff member will immediately try to locate the responsible person. If the person cannot be found in 30 minutes or if the library is closing, the staff will contact the police department for assistance. The staff will under no circumstance take the child from the premises.

Updated and approved by the John A Stahl Library Board on 03/28/22