Unattended Children and Disruptive Behavior Policy

The Johnson County Public Library System welcomes the use of its services and facilities by children. The Library encourages parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users of all ages.

Staff members are committed to:

- Helping children find materials for school work and recreational reading.
- Providing an environment that encourages study and exploration.
- Planning short programs that inform and enrich.

Staff members are also committed to the well-being and safety of children. However, library facilities are not designed or licensed to provide basic child care needs. Any public place may be unsafe for a child who is left unattended for long periods of time or who is left stranded after library closing hours.

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library, whether or not the parent or authorized caregiver is present. If a child is disruptive, staff will follow current policy as outlined in the Library Code of Conduct. If the disruptive behavior continues, staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to pick up the child immediately. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, staff may call the police for assistance.

Proposed 06/22/20
Approved 07/20/2020

<u>Procedure for Staff -- Unattended Children</u>

Children Five (5) years of age or younger, must have a parent/guardian/care-giver in the immediate vicinity or within visual contact of the child at all times. A non-parent care-giver should be at least Sixteen (16) years of age to care for children Five (5) years of age or younger, but exceptions may be made.

Children Six (6) through Nine (9) years of age are welcome to use the library as long as a parent/guardian/care-giver is in the library, including a non-parent care-giver as stated above.

Children Ten (10) years of age and older, who carry emergency contact information for their parent/guardian, or have an updated library account with the same information may use the library on their own.