

Langley-Adams Library Safe Child Policy

The Langley-Adams Library welcomes public use of the library and strives to create an environment that allows patrons of all ages to use its collections and services in a safe and unrestricted manner.

Children are always welcome in our library. The safety of children is a concern for all of us and children left alone in a library building is a serious concern. However, the library staff is not responsible and the library does not assume responsibility for the safety of children.

Children ages 5 and under must be continually attended by a parent or caregiver at all times while in the library. Staff should not be placed in the position of supervising children, too young to be left unattended.

Children ages 8 and under must be attended by a parent or caregiver at all times while in the library. If a child is attending a library program, the parent may leave the program area, but must remain in the library building.

Children ages 9 and older may be left unattended at the discretion of a responsible adult. If the adult feels it is unsafe for the child to leave the building without adult supervision, the child should not be in the library unattended.

Children ages 9 and older may be left alone for a period of time deemed necessary to research an assignment, complete a homework task, attend a library program, or for a period of time to select books and read in the library.

Children will be expected to display appropriate behavior. See *Langley-Adams Patron Behavior Policy*. A child will be asked to leave the library if proper behavior is not maintained. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both child and adult should be aware of library hours.

Staff members are not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child, nor give him/her a ride home. At closing time, a parent or caregiver must promptly pick the child up or make arrangements for getting home.

If an adult or caregiver cannot be reached, the Groveland Police will be notified and asked to escort the child home or keep the child until parents can be reached.

The Safe Child Policy will be enforced by the staff and may be subject to change at the discretion of the Library Director and Library Board of Trustees.

Revised & Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees October 8, 2008