

**ESTHERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SAFE CHILD POLICY**

Estherville Public Library staff cannot assume the responsibility for the care of children who use the library. Any child visiting the library individually or as part of a group (preschool, childcare facility, etc.) must be directly supervised at all times by caregivers to ensure safety and monitor behavior. Caregivers must maintain direct visual supervision of children age seven or younger. If a child is left unsupervised, staff will attempt to notify a parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian of an unattended child age seven or younger cannot be located within one hour of discovery that the child is unattended, local law enforcement will be notified.

Children eight and above may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the library. Patrons of all ages are expected to abide by the library's Behavior Policy. Staff will attempt to notify the parent or guardian of a child causing a disturbance, regardless of the child's age. If behavior is not improved, this could lead to the loss of library privileges for the remainder of that day or for a longer period of time, if necessary.

Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency. Library staff are not responsible for children who have not been picked up by the library's closing time. If a concern for the safety of a child left behind at closing time exists, staff on duty may elect to call local authorities.

Approved: 06/2011

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