

## Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library

### FAC - 3 Child Accompaniment Policy

While the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board welcomes children using library services, parents and guardians of children requiring supervision are reminded that small children should not be left unattended in or about the library premises. Children are the responsibility of their parents or caregivers. Library staff members are committed to the well being and safety of children, and are happy to help children use the library for the following purposes:

- Finding materials for school work and recreational reading.
- Providing an environment that encourages study and intellectual curiosity.
- Providing programs that inform and enrich.

Library facilities, however, are not licensed or designed to provide basic child care needs such as physical exercise, nutrition, or emergency care. ***Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the library staff to guarantee a safe environment.***

The library encourages parents to consider the safety and well being of their children and the needs of other library users of all ages. Children under age ***eight*** must be attended by a parent or other responsible caregiver at all times while in the library.

If at any time the child is unattended, the following will occur:

- The parent or caregiver will be sought in order to determine if he or she is in the library. He or she will be asked to stay with and supervise the child.
- If it is determined that the child is in the library without an adult, a staff member will call the parents or caregiver and request that they pick up the child. If the parents or caregiver cannot be reached within 30 minutes or they do not respond within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility.

Unattended children age eight and over are free to use the library's resources as long as needed, provided that their behaviour is not disruptive to other patrons or staff members.

Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children in the library, whether or not the parents are in attendance. Library staff is required to notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect that there is evidence of abuse or neglect.