

Purpose: The Medicine Hat Library Board believes that parents or caregivers are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children in the Library or on surrounding premises. Staff at the Medicine Hat Public Library are unable to watch children as a parent does in terms of supervision and safety. Staff are occupied with services and programs and cannot be aware of all activity taking place at all times.

1. Definitions:
  - 1.1. Child: means any person twelve (12) years of age and under.
  - 1.2. Parent: means custodial parent or legal guardian.
  - 1.3. Caregiver: means any person thirteen (13) years of age or older who is not a parent or legal guardian but is in temporary charge of a child.
2. Children should not be left unattended in any part of the building or surrounding premises if:
  - 2.1. They are six (6) years of age or younger, or,
  - 2.2. The child's usual behaviour patterns require close supervision.
3. Children who are seven (7) years of age and older may use the library independently at their parents' discretion.
4. Children who are in the library building without a parent or caregiver may not be left for an extended period of time. If the library staff discover that a child has been dropped off for an extended period of time they will:
  - 4.1. Contact the parent or caregiver by telephone, inform the parent/caregiver of the library policy and request arrangements to have the child picked up as soon as possible or for parental/caregiver supervision in the library.
  - 4.2. Contact City of Medicine Hat Police Services if the parent or caregiver cannot be reached.
5. Under no circumstances will library staff transport an unattended child to the child's home, on their own initiative or at the parent/caregiver's request.