

**North Valley Public Library**  
**CHILD SAFETY POLICY**  
Approved by Library Board 8/20/08

The North Valley Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for children using the library rests at all times with the parent(s) or assigned caregiver(s), not with library personnel.

Young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. Busy staff cannot supervise children and are unable to know if children are leaving the building with their parents or strangers. In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been created:

1. Parents or guardians are responsible for supervising their children in the library, and may not leave children under the age of 8 unattended.
2. Children age 8 and older who are able to use the library independently must know how to reach a parent or guardian in case of an emergency.
3. People of any age who behave disruptively may be asked to leave the library (a child who is not allowed to leave the library unattended should not be left in the building without adult supervision).
4. Parents should be aware of library hours. If a child is left unattended at the library at closing time, two staff members will remain with the child in the library and attempt to contact his/her parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian does not arrive to pick up the child within 15 minutes, library staff will call the police. Under no circumstances will library staff transport the child from the library building.
5. If children are left unattended repeatedly and/or for long periods of time, the staff will notify parent(s) of the library's policies, and may contact the police if they are concerned for the child's safety.
6. When a child is participating in a library program, the parent or caregiver should remain in the building.
7. Groups of children such as school classes, day cares, tours, etc. must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times while in the library.
8. Adults may be asked to leave the children's or young adult areas of the library if they are not accompanying a child and do not have a legitimate reason for being in the youth areas.