

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

The Library Board and staff of the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library encourage children to come to the Library and explore all the possibilities available to them. However, Library staff is concerned about the welfare and safety of children when they are left unattended. The Library is not responsible for the care and safety of children while they are on the Library premises. Out of concern for the safety and welfare of children visiting the Library, the Library Board has adopted the following guidelines:

*All children 7 years old and younger must be accompanied at all times by an adult or an adolescent at least 12 years of age while on Library premises or property, including the Bookmobile. If a child age 7 and younger is attending a Library program where attendance by an adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age is not required, the adult or adolescent at least 12 years of age must stay in the Library during the program.*

Children who are 8 years old and older may visit the Library by themselves and are expected to behave according to the Behavior Guidelines. Library staff members will intervene whenever they believe there is an inappropriate situation or behavior.

The Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the Library after hours. Unattended children younger than 12 years of age present at the Library 15 minutes before the Library closes will be asked to contact a parent to pick them up. If a parent has not picked up the child within 15 minutes after the Library has closed, the Library staff will call the Zionsville Police.

Parents dropping off children outside the Library should first ensure that the Library is open. The Library is not necessarily open to the public when there are lights on in the building.

It is the responsibility of the parent or attending guardian to monitor children in the Exploration Station. Age limits for attended / unattended children are the same as outlined above.

Parents attending meetings on Library property, whether sponsored by an outside group or the Library, are responsible for any children they bring with them and are expected to abide by this policy.

Parents who bring or allow others to bring minor children under the age of 18 onto Library property shall be solely responsible for the care and safety of such children at all times and while such children are on Library property.