

Geneva Public Library District (GPLD) welcomes and encourages children to visit the Library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Library staff is trained to help children with library resources and services and is available to help and support children; the Library, however, does not have facilities nor staffing to provide childcare, or to be responsible for unattended children. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the safety, comfort, and behavior of their children while in the Library. Children are expected to respect library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the Acceptable Library Use Policy.

Unattended children are children of any age who appear to be unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver. All unaccompanied children at the Library should have or know the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. Children under the age of seven may not be left unattended in any part of the building unless they are participating in a Library-sponsored activity. The parent or caregiver must remain in Kids Landing or in the immediate vicinity of the child during the program. The Library is not responsible if children leave library property unattended.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other patrons, staff, or the normal operations of library business.
- An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others.
- An unattended child is left alone at the Library at closing time.

Such situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or are unresponsive, Library staff may call the Geneva Police Department and stay with the child until the police arrive to take custody.

Missing children should be reported immediately to staff at any service desk. Library staff will initiate missing child protocols.