

## Policy 3-1-4. Safe Children

*Adopted 1/25/2018*

*Revised 1/17/2019*

Josephine Community Library District (JCLD) welcomes children of all ages. Serving children is a vital part of the library mission. JCLD strongly encourages families and children to make full and frequent use of the library. JCLD asks patrons to help keep the library a safe and pleasant place for children by adhering to the following policies.

### **A. Public Nature of the Library**

Parents should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals. It is not the library staff's or volunteers' function or purpose to provide supervision or to care for children while the parent or the designated responsible person are outside the library. Library staff have multiple duties, and in order to serve all citizens, they cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each child visiting the library. Staff and volunteers will not monitor children leaving the library. Staff and volunteers do not take over parental responsibility for children who visit the library.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for the child's behavior at all times while in the library building, or on the library grounds.

### **B. Levels of Supervision Required**

Children age 10 and younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver 14 years old or older at all times and in all areas of the library and on library grounds. Children age 5 and younger must always be in close proximity and within sight of the person responsible for their safety. Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities which affect behavior or decision-making skills or make supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or capable caregiver at all times.

### **C. Unattended Children**

Library staff and administration are not responsible for unsupervised or unaccompanied children. If library staff is aware of an unattended child, they will try to contact a parent or legal guardian. If unable to locate parent or guardian, staff will contact appropriate authorities. During special library programs for children, parents or guardians must remain on the premises (in the main library where the parent/guardian is accessible to the child) until the program has ended, in case an emergency should arise.

**D. Junior Internet Use**

Parents should accompany their children while they are using the Internet computer. Children 10 years of age and under are not allowed to use the Internet computer without adult supervision. Parents using an Internet computer should not leave their children unattended in the children's area.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), JCLD has installed filters on all library computers to block access to images that are obscene, depict child pornography, or are deemed harmful to minors. These filters:

- Protect minors from inappropriate matter on the Internet.
- Protect the safety and security of minors when they're using email, social media, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- Prevent unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, by minors online.
- Prevent unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- Restricts minors' access to materials harmful to them.

**E. Library Hours and Emergency**

Parents/responsible persons are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. If the child is left at the library after closing time, an attempt will be made to contact the parent. If the parent cannot be reached, the child will be considered abandoned and the police will be called after 30 minutes.

If the library closes as the result of an emergency and the parent cannot be reached, the police will be called as soon as possible. Staff can require that unattended children go with them during emergency procedures, such as seeking shelter from severe weather or evacuation of the building. Unless there is an emergency, staff members or volunteers will not take a child out of the building or transport children to another location.