

# **CHARITON PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILD SAFETY POLICY**

**(Approved February 2, 2006)**

Service to young people is a very high priority of the Chariton Public Library. The safety of children on Library premises is a serious concern of the Library staff. Staff members are available to assist children with Library materials or services. The Library, however, is a public building with staff trained to provide public Library services. The Library is not equipped—and it is not the Library’s role—to provide childcare. For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver must accompany children while they are using the Library. While in the Library, parents and caregivers are responsible for monitoring and regulating the behavior of their children.

**Unattended Children: Children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible childcare provider of at least 16 years of age, while on Library premises. The only exception to this rule is attendance of Library programming, provided that arrangements have been made for the timely drop-off and pick-up by the responsible adult.**

**Guidelines:** The following guidelines apply to the conduct of children.

If an unattended child calls attention to him/herself, a Library staff member will attempt to locate the parent, guardian or responsible childcare provider.

If the staff member is unable to locate the parent, guardian or responsible childcare provider, the staff member will notify the police.

If the Library is closing and no adult responsible for the child is present, the staff member will notify the police and two staff members will remain with the child until the police arrive.

## **Behavior Expectations:**

Unacceptable behaviors such as running, jumping on the furniture, throwing furniture/Library property, loud voices, defacing Library property or any other behavior that infringes on the rights of other Library users are not permitted. The following procedures will take place if unacceptable behaviors occur within the Library premises:

## **Consequences:**

In most cases, a child who is violating the Library Conduct Policy will be given one warning.

If a child does not modify his/her behavior after one warning, the parent, guardian or responsible childcare provider may be asked to remove the child from Library premises.

If a child is violating the Library Conduct Policy and not attended by a parent, guardian or responsible childcare provider, a Library staff member will ask the child to modify his/her behavior and take appropriate action as outlined above.