

## **4.2 Unattended Children**

- A. The Acorn Public Library District encourages children of all ages to visit the library with their parents to take advantage of the resources available. However, Staff cannot assume responsibility for the supervision or safety of children who use the library, except within the limited context of defined library programs. Parents, legal guardians or designated caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library whether or not the parents or guardians are in attendance.
- B. Children ages 9 and under must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or a caregiver 18 years of age or older at all times while on library premises. At certain times, the Library schedules or provides programs which are designed and suitable for attendance by children without such supervision. However, the parent or responsible caregiver of children attending such programs must remain in the building.
- C. Children ages 10 and over are free to use the library's facilities and resources, provided that their behavior conforms to Library rules and does not disrupt other library users or staff members.
- D. Library staff members cannot supervise children who are unaccompanied by their parents or caregivers. Staff members will attempt to contact parents of such children, and if the parent or guardian is unavailable, the Oak Forest Police Department will be contacted.
- E. Library hours are posted and the building is locked promptly at closing. Any children still at the Library at closing will have to leave the building, although they will be allowed to use the Library telephone to contact a parent or guardian. While the Library assumes no responsibility for children here at closing, the Person-in-Charge and a second staff member may wait up to 15 minutes for a parent to arrive for their child. At that time, if the child still has not been picked up, the Oak Forest Police Department will be called to handle the situation.