

# Haywood County Public Library Children in the Library Policy

## **Policy Philosophy**

The Haywood County Public Library encourages all children to freely use the resources of the library. However, the library staff cannot be responsible for the well-being of children dropped off at the library and left unattended. The staff will do all they can to ensure that the visit of all children to the library is fruitful and enjoyable, but they cannot serve "in loco parentis."

## **Policy**

Children ten (10) and below must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Children who are not under the immediate supervision of their parents or responsible adult will be held to the same behavior policy as adults.

## **Unattended Children**

If an unattended child is left at the library at closing time, every attempt will be made to contact the child's parent/guardian. If after a good faith attempt, the parent/guardian cannot be found to pick up the child, the staff will notify the police of an unattended child at the library. The child will be picked up by the police and the parent may retrieve the child at the police station.

Under no circumstances will staff transport the child in their personal vehicles.

**Adopted January 2008**

**Amended July 2018**