



## Unattended Children Policy

The Baker Free Library attempts to provide a safe environment that welcomes children of all ages to use and enjoy the facilities, collections, and programming offered by the library. This policy is established for the safety of young children and the enjoyment of all patrons using the library. As used in this policy, the term “parent” may include legal guardians or other persons having legal custody, control, or supervision of a minor.

1. Children under the age of eleven (11) may not be left unattended at the library. A child is unattended if a parent or responsible adult over the age of fourteen is not present with the child at all times while in the library. The Baker Free Library and its staff do not provide childcare services nor assume responsibility for any child left unattended in the library.
2. At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child age eleven (11) to thirteen (13) may be left unattended for the period of time needed to select materials, complete a homework assignment, read, or attend a program. The child must know how to reach the adult in case the need should arise.
3. All library patrons, including children, are subject to the library’s *Patron Behavior Policy*. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children at all times. Library staff do not serve *in loco parentis* (i.e. in place of the parent). If a child’s behavior is inappropriate for the library, and the child does not respond to appropriate guidance from library staff, the parent will be contacted to remove the child from the library. If the parent cannot be reached, the library staff will contact the Bow Police Department.
4. If a child is left at the library without a way home one half hour prior to closing time, library staff will contact the child’s parent—for the immediate retrieval of the child. If the parent cannot be located, the library staff will contact the Bow Police Department.
5. When necessary, two library staff will wait for the child to be retrieved by the parent or the police. Under no circumstances is a staff member ever to provide transportation for an unattended child.