



Valley Community Library
739 River Street
Peckville, PA 18452
570-489-1765
<http://lclshome.org/valley>

Unattended or Disruptive Children Policy

Valley Community Library (VCL) welcomes and encourages children to visit the Library, use its resources and services, and attend Library programs. VCL is not, however, able to provide short- or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children. Unattended children are children under the age of eighteen who are unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver.

Parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of children at all times in the library and on library property. VCL is a public facility and cannot regulate who enters the building nor take legal responsibility in the case of a medical emergency.

Children are expected to respect library property and adhere to the rules outlined in the VCL Patron Behavior Policy. Parents and guardians are responsible for making sure their children know the Library rules and have a contact number in case of an emergency.

Ages 8 & below

Parent/guardian/caregiver must be in the library and in sight of the child

Ages 9-17

May use library unattended, but parent/guardian/caregiver is still responsible for damage caused or injuries sustained.

Children of any age may not be left at the library for childcare or babysitting purposes.

Library staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian in circumstances such as the following:

- An unattended child is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other library users, staff, or the normal operations of library business
- An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others
- An unattended child is left alone at the library at closing time.

VCL assumes no responsibility for unattended children. In the interest of child safety, if an unattended child is in the Library at closing time and attempts to contact a parent or guardian are unsuccessful, VCL will call Blakely Borough Police to report an abandoned child.

A minimum of two Library staff will wait with unattended children until the Police arrive. Library staff may not offer transportation home. VCL is not responsible if children leave library property unattended.

VCL recognizes parents'/guardians'/caretakers' responsibility for the behavior and well-being of their children. We respect the privacy of all our library patrons and will intervene only when a child is deemed at risk.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 1/27/2020