

Supervision of Children (0-12 years old) Guidelines

The term 'children' is understood to refer to children aged from birth to twelve years inclusive.

The City of South Perth Libraries (Library) welcome children and aim to provide a safe environment for children.

A parent, guardian, caregiver or responsible adult over 18 years of age must accompany and supervise children whilst in the library and accept responsibility for monitoring the activities and behaviour of their children.

Supervision requires that the responsible person must be within sight of their child at all times. Library staff (staff) are unable to undertake supervision responsibilities when children and young people enter the library.

Parents, guardians and caregivers who leave a child unattended whilst on library premises may be exposing their child to potential harm, and may themselves be committing an offence under the Children and Community Services Act 2004 (Failing to Protect a Child from Harm s. 101).

Staff will attempt to locate and contact the parent, guardian or caregiver within the library if an unattended child is:

- found frightened or crying in the library
- hurt or sick
- perceived to be endangering themselves, and/or other library users
- perceived to pose a threat to the unattended child
- exhibits inappropriate behaviour
- found in the library in the event of an emergency evacuation
- found in the library at closing time

If the parent, guardian or caregiver is not located within the library staff will attempt contact by other means, such as a phone call.

If contact by the parent, guardian or caregiver has not been made after 15 minutes, with approval from Manager Library Services, staff will request Police attend and collect the child. Staff will wait with the child until Police arrive.