



## **DARE COUNTY LIBRARY CHILD SAFETY POLICY**

The Dare County Library encourages children of all ages to use and enjoy its facilities and resources. While the staff works to create a safe environment in the library, this work does not extend to the acceptance of responsibility to care or watch over any child or children left unattended by the person responsible. The presence of unattended children in the library is a safety concern to all. Children are at great risk in this day and age, even in a library. All children in grades 5 and below must, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or responsible adult (someone 16 or older) who remains in the library building.

Children who have completed grade 5 and up may be left unattended at the discretion of their parent or responsible adult for the period of time necessary to complete homework assignments and projects, or for quiet reading and browsing. Such children are subject to the same rules of conduct as all other library patrons and with the same consequences for not observing them, including being asked to leave the library. This possibility should be taken into consideration when deciding whether to leave a child of any age unattended in the library.

Children who have completed grade 5 and up should know how to reach an adult, and both child and adult should be aware of the closing time of the library. At closing time, the police will be notified to escort unattended children who are left at the library.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees 10/8/99; revised 7/12/13; revised 7/9/15*