

## **SAFE CHILD**

The Amery Area Public Library welcomes visits by children and their families. However, library staff cannot provide child care or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians, teachers and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children. A caregiver is defined as a responsible person who is at least 15 years or older.

### *Unattended Children*

An unattended child is a child seven years of age or younger who is apparently unaccompanied by a responsible adult. Parent, guardians, teachers and caregivers may not leave children alone or in the care of other children who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care. Supervising adults must be close at hand.

Children age eight or over may remain in the library unattended, provided they behave in a manner conducive to maintaining an appropriate atmosphere in the building for all patrons.

As in all public places, "stranger danger" is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone.

If the library is closing, at a regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building, the Amery Police Department will be called to take the child.

The library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibilities.

*Approved by the Amery Area Public Library Board of Trustees, September 9, 2013, revised March 27, 2023.*