

**DALY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
POLICY 5: UNATTENDED CHILD**

The Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services and to participate in its programs. While visiting the Library, children must abide by the Library's Behavior Policy. The responsibility for a child's behavior and well-being rests with the child's parent, guardian or caregiver, not with the staff of the Library.

Many older children are able to use the Library on their own. However, young children under the age of ten and/or children who are uncomfortable when left alone must be attended at the library by a parent, guardian or caregiver.

The Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended at the Library. The library staff owes only the same duty to unattended children as they do other library patrons. The library does not undertake responsibility to provide supervision.

If a child is left unattended in the Library and circumstances warrant special attention (e.g. the child is crying, hurt, or fearful about being alone in the library, staff will attempt to locate the child's caregiver. If staff cannot locate the caregiver, they will call the Daly City Police. Library staff will stay with the child until the police arrive. The Police will take the child into temporary custody, per the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 305(a). The officer will attempt to contact the child's parent or guardian to determine if he or she is able to assume custody of the child. If the officer cannot contact the parent or guardian, he will notify a social worker in the county welfare department to assume custody of the child.

Members of the Library staff are not permitted to give a child a ride home.

The following sign will be posted at all library locations:

**UNATTENDED CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TEN (10) MAY
BE REFERRED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE DALY CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT. THIS IS DONE FOR THE CHILDREN'S
PROTECTION.**

Approved by the Daly City Public Library Board of Trustees: 3/18/02