

## **Onslow County Public Library**

### **Safe Child Policy**

It is the aim of the Onslow County Public Library to provide a welcoming, pleasant, and safe environment for every child who visits the Library. While Library staff will take all reasonable measures to ensure safety and security, they cannot monitor the behavior or whereabouts of each person or child. It must be understood that parents or guardians are fully responsible for their children upon entering the public Library facilities.

- Children under age 10 must be accompanied by an individual 18 years or older who acknowledges responsibility for the child during their entire stay in the Library. Children under age 7 must be in the direct presence of a parent or guardians during the entire Library visit.
- If a child of any age violates the rules of conduct in the Library, they may be asked to leave the premises, in accordance with the Onslow County Public Library policy on disruptive behavior.
- When an unattended child (15 or younger) remains on Library premises 15 minutes before closing the child will be encouraged to contact a parent or guardian to be sure that transportation has been arranged. If the child has not been picked up after the Library has closed, two staff members or one staff member and a security guard will wait with the child for 15 minutes.
- If the minor is still on the premises 15 minutes after closing, Library staff members shall contact local law enforcement. The staff member will record the child's name, parent's name, address, and phone number. The staff member(s) and security guard will remain with the child until law enforcement arrives. By prior agreement, local law enforcement will take responsibility for the minor.

Original Policy Approved by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners February 19, 1996

Revised policy approved by the Onslow County Board of Trustees April 8, 2013

Approved by the Onslow County Board of Commissioners – November 18, 2013