

## **Unattended and Disruptive Children Policy April, 1995**

The Lincoln Public Library encourages children of all ages to use and enjoy its facilities, and urges parents and caregivers to actively participate in children's library visits. While librarians work to create a safe environment in the library, this work does not extend to acceptance of responsibility to care for, or watch over, any child or children left unattended by the person responsible for the child's care. The presence of unattended children in the library is a safety issue of concern to all. All children under 8 years of ages should, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

Older children (ages 8 & up) may be left unattended at the discretion of the responsible adult, for the period of time necessary to complete homework assignments, special projects, or to attend a library program. However, the child should know how to reach the adult, and both child and adult should be aware of the library's closing time. If a child is left alone in the library at closing, the library staff will attempt to contact the parent or caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be reached, the library staff will, after a reasonable time, notify the police, and request that they assume responsibility for the child.

It is the responsibility of accompanying adults to ensure the appropriate behavior of their children in the library. Unattended older children also are expected to behave appropriately while in the library. Disruptive children will be asked to leave the library after appropriate warning.