

**Salida Regional Library**  
**SAFE CHILD POLICY**

Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of their children at all times in the Salida Regional Library (Library). Neither the Library nor its staff members act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents). The Library respects the privacy of all patrons and will intervene only when a child is believed to be at risk, disturbing other patrons, or is endangering him or herself.

Children may use the Library unattended, at the discretion of a responsible adult. However, if the adult feels it is unsafe for the child to leave the building without adult supervision, the child should not be left at the Library unattended. The Library staff cannot provide childcare or assume parental responsibility for children's safety.

Children, like all Library users, are expected to behave in a manner that respects Library property and that is appropriate to the use and function of the Library. If a child behaves in a disruptive manner, the child may be asked to correct their behavior. Library staff may, at their discretion, contact an appropriate adult such as a parent, guardian, caregiver, the Police, or direct that the child leave the Library.

When an unattended child has not been picked up at close of Library public hours, the staff will make their best effort to assist the child in contacting an appropriate adult. In the event that no one can be contacted within 10 minutes of library closing, the Library staff may call the Salida Police Department and place the child in their protective custody.

If an unattended child has a health emergency or other similar circumstance, the staff will make their best effort to contact an appropriate adult or, if deemed necessary, emergency services.

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The Salida Regional Library **Safe Child Policy** was adopted and approved by the Salida Regional Library Board of Trustees on April 29, 2015, reviewed February 27, 2018, reviewed February 26, 2019, adopted with changes February 23, 2021.