

## Supervision of children (0- 12 years old) in the library



The term 'children' refers to any child aged from birth to 12 years inclusive.

City of Fremantle Library welcome children and families to our Library, and we strive to provide a welcome and inclusive environment which meets their needs for recreation, information, and education. However young children are not safe when left unattended in the library. The staff cannot know if the children are leaving the building with a parent or stranger. It is not our intention to seek out unattended children but be able to respond to situations should they arise.

Library staff are trained to provide Library services and are not equipped or expected to supervise or look after children.

For their own security and wellbeing, children must be accompanied by a responsible guardian over the age of 18 years. The guardian must supervise children in the library and are responsible for the monitoring of their behaviour and activities. All children aged five years and younger must always be within sight of their guardian.

Library staff will not be responsible for unsupervised children, please be aware that parents or guardians always remain responsible for the safety of all their children. Any person who leaves a child insufficiently supervised, or unsupervised in the library is exposing them to potential harm and may be committing an offence under the Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA).

If required, Library staff may respond to situations involving unsupervised children, such as:

- If a child is found agitated, crying, or frightened in the library.
- If a child is injured or unwell.
- If a child is perceived to be in danger or in danger of harming other Library users.
- If another person has been perceived as a threat to the child.
- If the child exhibits inappropriate behaviour.
- An unattended child is found in the library at closing time.
- An unattended child is found in the library during an emergency evacuation.

In cases like these, staff may try to contact the child's parent, guardian, or caregiver. If this is not successful or if it is deemed necessary, Library staff will report the incident to the Fremantle Police and ask them to collect the child or children from the library.