The Davis Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs, and use the Library collection and computers.  Library staff is available to assist and support children in using the Library; however, it is not the Library staff’s responsibility to act as teacher, disciplinarian, or supervisor nor to assume responsibility for the safety of children. Library staff members cannot be responsible for children who are unsupervised or left unattended at the library premises as this interferes with the staff member’s ability to fulfill his/her duties.

The following policy has been designed to communicate the Library Board’s concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety, behavior and supervision of their children while in the library. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent/guardian/caregiver who is at least 13 years old, except during programs exclusively for children. (Parents should remain close to the program area on the premises during such programs.) If a child is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library without an adult. It is the parent’s responsibility to oversee their children’s use of the computers and electronic devices.

1. At all times, caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on library premises. Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, the abilities and the levels of responsibility of their children.

2. Caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, bearing in mind that these hours can and do change. Power failures or other emergencies can occur and require unexpected closing of the building. Children left alone in the library, or on the library grounds could be vulnerable. Every effort will be made to contact the parents or guardians prior to closing.

3. If a child is left at the library after closing time, or as the result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the library building or transport children to another location.

4. Children are expected to adhere to the same rules of conduct expected of adults. All library users are required to respect library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of a library. Children who are not using the library appropriately or who require excessive staff attention or supervision, will be asked to leave the library.