VPL Safe Children Policy

Date Effective: 04/23

Date(s) Reviewed by Library Board: 04/23, 11/24

Policy Maintenance Performed By: Library Director

PHILOSOPHY:

The Vinton Public Library welcome children of all ages. Children aged six (6) or younger must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver. Responsible caregivers assume responsibility for the safety, comfort, and behavior of their child/children on Library premises and must not leave the child unattended on Library premises. Library employees cannot assume the role of responsible caregiver.

POLICY:

Children must have a responsible caregiver aged twelve (12) or older within visual contact and in their immediate vicinity while on Library premises. Exceptions may be made by Library staff for children aged three (3) and older who are attending select Library programs. When an exception is made, the responsible caregiver is expected to remain *in the library building and available* during the program and to immediately join the child at the end of the program.

When made aware of an unattended child, Library staff will make a reasonable attempt to locate the responsible caregiver. If the responsible caregiver is not located, the police will be notified.

The Vinton Public Library Conduct in the Library Policy defines misconduct and states that some behaviors will result in a request for the person to leave the Library. Although young persons aged seven (7) and older may use the library on their own, their actions and well-being remain the responsibility of their parents and caregivers. A young person who cannot be responsible for themselves outside of the library should not be left alone on Library premises.