

Essentials for Children of Any Age

- ⇒ Realize that you are in a busy public place alone
- ⇒ Know what to do if approached by a stranger
- ⇒ Know your own name, address and telephone number and the name(s) of your parents
- ⇒ Know how to call a parent at all times, or who to call as a back-up if you can't reach a parent
- ⇒ Have money to make a telephone call (\$.35 on the library's pay phone)
- ⇒ Know the library's closing time and arrange to be picked up at least 15 minutes prior to closing
- ⇒ Know the purpose of your visit and how you will use your time at the library



Decide ahead of time with your child how the time at the library will be used.

Stanly County Public Library Hours of Operation

Albemarle

M-Th 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
F-S 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat. 9-1 June-August

Badin

M,W,F 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday 10-2 p.m.
Thursday 3-7 p.m.

Locust

M-Th 1-7 p.m.
Friday 1-5 p.m.
Saturday 9-1

Norwood

M-Th 1-7 p.m.
Friday 9-1 p.m.
Saturday 9-1

Oakboro

M 9-1 p.m.
W,Th,F 1-5 p.m.
Tuesday 3-7 p.m.

Stanly County Public Library

Visiting the Library Alone

*Suggestions for
Parents and
Children*



The very
best place
to start.

Telephone (704)986-3755

On Your Own At The Library

Dear Parent,

One of the most rewarding experiences for the library staff is introducing children and youth to the library. From getting the first library card to reading chapter books during the Summer Reading Program to coming to the library to do school assignments, it is our goal to make every library visit positive and rewarding for children and parents.

There is also concern on the part of the library staff when children are left at the library unsupervised before they are prepared for the experience. It can be frightening to be left alone too long in a busy public place, and it can also be "boring" if there is not a clear purpose for the visit. Children also exhibit anxiety when they are not picked up promptly at the conclusion of their visit.

Based on years of experience working with children, our library staff offers these suggestions when deciding to allow your child to visit the library without an adult. If you have questions, please call me at (704)986-3766.

**Melanie Holles,
Library Director**

- **Ages 0 to 3 1/2 years.** Young children should be within sight of their accompanying adult at all times when visiting the library. There aren't many activities appropriate for this age at the library, so making the visit short and sweet may be the most productive.
- **Ages 3 1/2 to 8 years.** Children this age should never be in the library without an accompanying adult. If children are in storytime, or playing on the computer, adults should visually check on them every 10 to 15 minutes. Children this age can handle a few minutes of independence. To minimize feelings of boredom or frustration, library visits should not exceed 30 minutes, not including a structured program that is designed for this age.
- **Ages 9-12.** Many children of this age can satisfactorily manage their behavior for short periods of time—an hour or less. An occasional hour-long visit to the library may promote independence and good coping skills. However, boredom and familiarity can contribute to misbehavior. The library



Ask about our guidelines for using the computers.

staff encourages children who come to the library to have their time planned out—do homework, play on the computer, pick out books, read. On average, children who come to the library alone after school spend a maximum of 20 minutes doing homework. The rest of the visit—whether 10 minutes or four hours—generally is spent socializing. This unplanned time gives rise to activities inside and outside the library building that can jeopardize the safety of children.

- **Ages 12-15.** Many unattended children this age can handle library visits up to 2 hours, as long as they have work to do. The library staff is happy to provide assistance.
- **For all ages.** Please pick up children promptly **at least 15 minutes** prior to the library's closing time. This eliminates a lot of anxiety for children.