



Unattended Child Policy

The Newburyport Public Library encourages children of all ages to visit the Library, attend library programs, and take advantage of age appropriate resources and services. Staff members are happy to assist children in using library resources; however, staff cannot provide child care or assume responsibility for the safety of children left unattended on the Library's premises. Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety and supervision of children at all times in the library and on library property.

Any child 8 years old or younger must have a parent or caregiver in the immediate vicinity of (and in visual contact with) the child. The parent/caregiver must be at least 14 years old. A sibling may act as caregiver only if he or she is at least 14 years old. Children 8 years old or younger may attend a library program without a parent/caregiver in the room as long as the parent/caregiver remains in the library and immediately joins the child at the end of the program.

At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child 9 years old or older may be left unattended for the period of time needed to select materials, complete homework, or attend a program.

Children, like all library users, are required to respect library property and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library. Children who exhibit inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the library, and will be given the opportunity to contact a parent/guardian. The library assumes no responsibility for the whereabouts of an unattended child who has been asked to leave library property.

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers need to be aware of scheduled library closing times and understand that the Library may have to close unexpectedly due to weather emergencies or safety issues. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians and/or caregivers to let their children know what they should do if they must leave the library. All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

Library staff will contact the police or other appropriate City agency if a child appears to be at risk or if a child is left unattended when the library closes. Once the Library is closed children may not wait in the Library and staff members are not available to stay with a child after closing. Under no circumstances will library staff transport or take a child away from the library building.

Revised June 3, 2015