

Unattended Children Policy Westbrook Public Library

The Westbrook Public Library encourages visits by children, and wants their visits to be memorable and enjoyable. For the purposes of this policy, “unattended” means that the person responsible for the child is not within sight of the child.

General

Parents are ultimately responsible for their children’s behavior in the library. Library staff cannot and will not assume responsibility for the care of unattended children.

Exceptions may be made when a child is attending a Library children’s program.

It is the policy of the library that all children under six years old must be in the company of a parent or responsible person who is twelve years of age or older while in the library. It is against Library policy to leave children age six (6) or younger unattended at the Library.

If a child is left unattended in the Library, the staff may attempt to locate their parent/care provider. If a parent/care provider is in the Library, they will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children.

If a parent/care provider is not found in the Library, staff may attempt to locate the parent using library card registration. A parent, when contacted, will be informed of the Library’s policy concerning unattended children.

Disruptive Behavior

Any child who is considered to be disruptive or unsafe by the Library staff may be asked by the Library staff to stop the behavior. A second request by the librarian for the child to stop the disruptive behavior will be directed to the responsible parent, legal guardian or childcare provider to correct. If a parent or legal guardian is not on the Library premises, a child may be asked to leave the building. If the child needs to contact a parent or guardian, they may do so. If a problem involving an unattended child still remains and Library staff feels the child may be unsafe, Library staff has the right to call the police or child protective services.

Closing Time

Parents are responsible for picking up their children by closing time. All patrons are asked to leave the building at closing.

Fifteen minutes before closing time, Library staff will remind young people to contact a parent/responsible person for a ride home if one is not already arranged. For the safety of the child, the staff will not leave a child outside to wait on a ride.

Approved and adopted 11-10-21