

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Board approved 1/24/2022

- A. Children age 8 and over are allowed to be in the Library unattended with some area restrictions. Children are responsible for having contact information for someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- B. All Library patrons must respect the rights and safety of others by following the Patron Conduct Policy.
- C. After school, unattended children under the age of 14 may not access the Adult Services Department or Adult Computer Lab.
- D. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver. A responsible caregiver is an adult or mature adolescent, 14 years or older, who assumes full responsibility for the safety and behavior of those in their care.
- E. Middle School students are to remain in the main area of the Youth Services Department, unless supervised by a Librarian to access resources in the Early Learning Center or Adult Departments. While school is in session, the Diamond Meeting Room will be open for Middle Schoolers to sit unless there is another scheduled program.
- F. Staff members do not function *in loco parentis* (in place of parents) or as substitute caregivers. They are not responsible for duties such as safety monitoring, behavior oversight, bathroom assistance, monitoring personal possessions, care of illness, or providing caregiving attention that prevents them from their work duties.
- G. Parents or caregivers must pick up their children prior to closing time. When the Library is closing, in case of illness, or if the safety or behavior of an unattended is in doubt, staff are authorized to call the police if they are unable to reach a caregiver.
- H. Violations of this policy could result in suspension of Library privileges.