

James Blackstone Memorial Library Child Behavior and Supervision Policy

The Library has a responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities.

The Library Board and staff are eager for children to use the library and welcome those who do so. Service to children is an important part of the Library's mission. The Library is free and open to unaccompanied children who are independent enough to use the resources for recreation, information and education. If a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library without an adult.

Parents should be aware that the Library is a public building open to all individuals. It is not the Library staff's function or purpose to provide supervision or to care for children while parents or caregivers are outside the Library or in another part of the building. Also be aware that staff is unable to monitor children leaving the library.

The following policy has been designed to communicate the Library Board's concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

Unattended Children

1. At all times, caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on Library premises. Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, the abilities and the levels of responsibility of their children.
2. Caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the Library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Power failures or other emergencies can occur and require unexpected closing of the building. Every effort will be made to contact the parents or guardians prior to closing.
3. If a child is left at the Library after closing time or as the result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the building or transport children to another location.
4. Children are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct expected of adults. All Library users are required to respect Library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library (see Code of Behavior Policy). Children who are not using the Library appropriately or who require excessive staff attention or supervision will be asked to leave the Library.