



Unattended Children

The Township of Washington Public Library, concerned for the safety and well-being of children left unattended in the library, has implemented the following.

We urge parents to remember that the library is a public building and it is not in any child's best interest to be left here unattended.

1. An unattended child is any child under the age of ten who is in the library unaccompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver (age thirteen or over).
2. Children under the age of ten years must be accompanied by a caregiver (age 13 or over) at all times while in the library.
2. Children aged ten through twelve may be left in the library without an adult for reasonable periods of time, but parents are responsible for their child's behavior and will be contacted if necessary. (Reasonable periods of time may vary with a child's maturity.)
3. Children thirteen and over may be in the library without an adult. However, should disciplinary problems arise. The library may ask the child to leave. In the event that said child does not comply, the Police Department will be requested to assist. In that event, the library assumes no further responsibility for the child.
4. If problems arise while children are using the library, the library staff will attempt to contact the parents. If the library staff is unable to reach the parents, the Police Department will be requested to assist.
5. Parents are required to be at the library by closing time to pick up children. If, after 15 minutes, the child is still left unattended, the Police Department will be called to assist.
6. Under no circumstances will the library assume custodial responsibility for any child.
8. Parents and/or guardians, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of their children using the library and their respective parents and/or guardians may be held liable for any damage they cause.

All adults who visit the children's section must be actively caring for a child or using the children's section resources for the benefit of children. Adults who have no related reason to use the children's section must use other library areas, and will be asked to leave the children's section.

Adopted by The Library Board of Trustees on 03/17/2015.