

East Brookfield Public Library

Unattended Children Policy

A policy is necessary to address the issue of leaving children unattended in the library and at library sponsored programs. The policy is also necessary to provide for the general safety of children in the library and to make parents aware that the library is a public building, open to all manner of people, and can therefore present risk to children.

Statement of this policy

1. Children age 10 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/authorized caregiver. If a child age 10 and under is not accompanied by a parent/guardian/authorized caregiver, the librarian will call to have the child picked up.
2. Children over the age of 10 are allowed in the Library unaccompanied by a parent/guardian/authorized caregiver. However, a parent may be asked to stay with their child, regardless of age, if the child's behavior warrants it.

Responsibilities

1. Children are the responsibility of their parent/ guardian/authorized caregiver, not of the library. The library takes no responsibility for the safety or welfare of children left unattended at the library.
2. It is the parent/guardian/authorized caregiver's responsibility to pick up their child at the end of a program or at the library's closing. Failure to be on time for pickup may exclude the child from attending future library events.
3. In the event of abuse of library privileges by a child (remove "by a child"), the librarian shall contact the parent/guardian.
4. In case of emergency, should the library need to contact a parent/guardian/authorized caregiver of any child and they are not on site or cannot be reached, the librarian will notify the police.

Date: 2/2016

Approved by the East Brookfield Library Trustees