

NORWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY FOR THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

Philosophy

The Trustees and staff of the Norwell Public Library hope that the children who use the library will find it a warm, inviting, fun place to develop a love of reading, books, information, and libraries.

Many programs are offered to make the library enticing to children but when children are left unattended, the staff cannot know if children are leaving the building with parents or with strangers. In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where children can enjoy all that the library offers, the following policies have been established.

Policies

1. Parents or guardian(s) are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library.
2. Children under six may not be left unattended.
 - A. A child's participation in a story hour for which he/she is registered and the parent is in the building is not considered unattended. For all other programs, the child must be accompanied.
 - B. A babysitter in sixth grade or up may accompany a young child.
 - C. An older sibling may accompany a young child; however, if the older child cannot control the younger child, the younger child will be considered unattended.
3. A staff member shall not take a child out of the building or transport the child to another location under any circumstances.

Rules and procedures

1. The following are prohibited in the library:

Smoking	Loud talking	Abusive language
Drinking	Destruction of property	Running
Commercial solicitation and distribution of leaflets	Hitting	
2. Disruptive behavior is prohibited. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, disturbing other patrons; quarreling; moving furniture; blocking aisles and/or entries; aimless and/or restless roaming; and acts of vandalism.
3. The materials and equipment in the library are for the use of patrons and staff. These items, as well as furniture, must be used for their intended purposes. Any purposeful damage done to the materials, equipment, furniture, building or property is against the law and may be reported to the police.
4. Building entrances and exits may not be blocked.

5. Animals are not permitted in the library except for guide or assist animals.
6. Roller skates and roller blades are not allowed in the library.
7. Portable radios and tape players are not allowed in the library if they are audible to anyone except the person wearing headphones.
8. Any sports equipment brought into the library must be left at the circulation desk.
9. Staff members are not responsible for users' personal belongings.
10. Staff members have the right to inspect any/all bags, purses, briefcases, packs, etc. for library materials, which may have been inadvertently packed with a user's other materials.

Adopted 1/11/95

Amended 4/21/2006