

NORWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

Children who visit the library will discover a warm, inviting, and enriching environment in which to learn and grow. To ensure their safety, children aged nine and younger must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Staff will immediately reunite unattended children aged nine and younger with their parent/guardian. The police may be notified if the parent/guardian is not found in the Library.

Children aged ten and older may use the Library independently, subject to the Appropriate Library Use Policy, which applies to all library users. Fifteen minutes prior to closing time (5pm or 8pm), any unattended child will be asked to confirm with their parent/guardian that they will be picked up by closing time. Under no circumstances will a child be left unattended at closing. Library staff is NOT required to remain with a minor. The police may be notified if a parent/guardian is late picking up a child. A pattern of inattention to closing times may result in the loss of library privileges.

The responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or child's caregiver, not with library personnel. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are accountable for monitoring their children's safety, activities, and behavior during a library visit. Library staff does not take the place of a parent/guardian/caregiver, nor does it assume responsibility for unsupervised children. This policy has been established for the protection and well being of children using the library.

Approved by Board of Trustees as amended, June 15, 2021