

ATTLEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

The Trustees and staff of Attleboro Public Library strive to make the library a warm and welcoming environment for all patrons, visitors, and staff. We take great pride in creating a friendly and respectful atmosphere for the maximum use and enjoyment of our resources.

The library is a public place open to Attleboro residents as well as residents from surrounding cities and towns. The safety of library staff and patrons, and particularly the safety of children on library premises, are our paramount concerns.

To ensure the safety and well-being of children in the library, the following guidelines apply:

- While in the library, children under the age of 10 must always be accompanied by, and near, a parent, guardian, adult caregiver, or teenager (13 years old or older). An exception may be made for children attending library programs, with the parent's and library's permission.
- The parent/caregiver is primarily responsible for ensuring appropriate behavior of their children in the library. Disruptive behavior, including but not limited to shouting, running, inappropriate language, damaging library materials, and climbing on furniture, is not allowed.
- If a child under age 10 is found alone in the library, library staff will attempt to locate or contact a parent/caregiver. If staff cannot locate or reach a parent/caregiver within a reasonable time, the Attleboro Police will be contacted.
- Children age 10 and older may use the library without an accompanying adult/guardian for a reasonable period of time provided that:
 - the child is able to use the library independently and without supervision
 - the child observes library rules
 - the child knows the phone number to reach an adult/caregiver
- Unaccompanied children must be picked up at least 15 minutes prior to the library's scheduled closing time.
- Parents or caregivers are responsible for supervising the materials their child borrows from or uses in the library. The library does not monitor library materials children choose, nor does it limit children's access to any materials available in the library, including computer access.
- The library cannot assume responsibility for the behavior or safety of children of any age left unattended at the library. Staff members are unable to watch children for parents or caregivers and cannot be responsible for an unattended child in case of a medical emergency.
- In the case of a medical emergency, library staff will call 911 and a parent/caregiver, in that order.
- In the case of an unexpected closing, library staff will attempt to reach a parent/caregiver. If that parent/caregiver is unable to pick-up the child within a reasonable time, library staff will call Attleboro Police.