

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Children of all ages are encouraged to use the Norwalk Easter Public Library and the library is committed to making their visits to the library both memorable and enjoyable.

The responsibility for the safety and supervision of children while on library premises, however, rests with the parent or responsible adult and not with library staff. While staff is concerned about the safety and well-being of children, they cannot assume responsibility for them in the absence of the caregiver.

Guidelines

- A child, under the age of eight, is unattended if he/she is in the library without a parent or responsible adult over the age of 18.
- If a staff member finds an unattended child, the following steps will be taken:
 - The staff member will determine if the parent or responsible adult is in the library. If so, the staff member and the child will attempt to locate them.
 - If the parent or responsible adult is not in the library, the staff member will attempt to contact the parent using information provided by the child, the library's customer database, or the telephone directory. If contacted, the parent will be told that their child must be picked up immediately.
 - If the parent cannot be located, or if a contacted parent has not picked up their child within 30 minutes of being called, the staff member will contact the police.
- Children eight years of age or older are considered to be on their own in the library. If disruptive, they will be asked to leave. A second warning will result in the police being contacted. Parents will not be called.
- If any child is left at the library 10 minutes after closing, a staff member will contact the police and stay until police arrive.
- The library assumes no responsibility for any child left unattended in the library.
- All library customers, no matter what age, are subject to the library's rules of conduct.

Adopted by the Norwalk Easter Public Library February 10, 2003

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Revised February 16, 2009