Unattended Child Policy

The Public Library of Brookline welcomes children of all ages and strives to create a warm, inviting learning environment. The Library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books and reading. However, the Library is a public building, and the well-being of young children left alone at the Library is a serious concern. Young children are not safe when left unattended in a library or any other public place. In addition, children left alone for long periods of time can become bored, frightened or disruptive. The responsibility for children using the Library rests with the child’s parent/guardian or a designated adult caregiver.

The safety and well-being of every child is very important and to ensure their protection, the Public Library of Brookline has adopted the following policy.

1. Children 8 years old and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian or designated adult caregiver at all times in the Children’s Room and the Library.
2. Parents/caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. If a child’s conduct interferes with another patrons’ ability to use the Library in violation of posted policies, the child and his/her parent/caregiver will be asked to leave the building.
3. Parents/caregivers must not leave the Library while their children, 8 years old and younger, are attending a Library sponsored program.
4. Children old enough to use the Library alone should be familiar with Library policies and hours of service. A child, old enough to use the Library alone, whose conduct interferes with another patrons’ ability to use the Library in violation of posted policies will be asked to leave the building. Children should know how to reach a parent or caregiver during their visit.
5. The Library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the Library is closing, but will make an effort to contact a parent/guardian or adult caregiver. If arrangements cannot be made for immediate pick up, the Brookline Police Department will be contacted.

Voted by the Board of Library Trustees 10 January 2006
Amended by the Board of Library Trustees 12 July 2011