

## **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. The responsibility for children using the Library rests with the child's parent/guardian or a designated caregiver (aged 13+).

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 younger than 9 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a parent/guardian or designated caregiver (aged 13+) at all times in the Children's Room and the Library.
2. Parents/designated caregivers (aged 13+) are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. If a child's conduct interferes with another patron's ability to use the Library in violation of posted policies, the child and his/her parent/designated caregiver (aged 13+) will be asked to leave the building.
3. Parents/designated caregiver (aged 13+) must not leave the Library while their children younger than 9, are attending a Library sponsored program.
4. Children 9 and older should be familiar with, and adhere to, 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. If arrangements have not been 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

Amended by the Board of Library Trustees 11 June 2019