

Portland Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

Child Behavior and Supervision Policy

The Library Board and staff are eager for children to use the Library and welcome those who do so. Service to children is an important part of the Library's mission. The Library is free and open to unaccompanied children who are independent enough to use the resources for recreation, information and education.

Parents should be aware that the Library is a public building open to all individuals. It is not the Library staff's function or purpose to provide supervision or to care for children. Staff will not monitor children leaving the library.

The following policy has been designed to communicate the Library Board's concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

Unattended children

If a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library without an adult.

1. At all times, caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on Library premises. Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, the abilities and the levels of responsibility of their children.
2. Caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the Library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Power failures or other emergencies can occur and require unexpected closing of the building. Children left alone in the Library, or on Library grounds, could be vulnerable. Every effort will be made to contact the parents or guardians prior to closing.
3. If a child is left at the Library after closing time, or as the result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the building or transport children to another location.
4. Children shall be treated in accord with Library Behavior Policy: Any user who is not using the Library appropriately, or who requires excessive staff attention or supervision, will be asked to leave the Library.
5. Although such information may be relayed upon request to a parent, staff shall not be held responsible for notifying parents as to whether their child has visited the Library. Generally, staff shall not restrict a child's access to the Library based upon parental request.

Relevant CT State Statutes: Sec. 53-21a.

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