

Centerville-Center Township Public Library

Unattended Child Policy

Statement

The Centerville-Center Township Public Library (the Library) is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children and families to visit the Library, to use the library collections and computers, and to attend programs designed to encourage reading and life-long learning. The Library encourages frequent visits by children and maintains the belief that visits should be a positive and enjoyable experience. While the health, safety and well-being of children visiting the Library is of utmost importance, the Library staff does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents).

Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for monitoring the safety, behavior, and activities of children at all times in the Library and on library property regardless of whether they are accompanying their children or not. The Library is not able, or equipped, to provide short or long-term childcare and is not a substitute for supervised after-school or daycare programs. Staff cannot be placed in a position of supervising unattended children. While staff is committed to assisting children with activities related to the Library, it is not their duty to serve as baby-sitters or disciplinarians. It is their duty to assist and support children using the Library.

In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of children within a public facility and to maintain an atmosphere of appropriate library use, the following policy has been adopted.

Policy

1. Responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children using the Library ultimately rests with the parent/guardian or an assigned caregiver.
2. Any child nine (9) years of age and under must be supervised by a sibling or caregiver seventeen (17) years of age or older at all times.
3. Any child between the ages of 10-17 may be left unattended at the library. An unattended child will be expected to actively use library services during their visit.
4. All children must be able to provide the telephone number of a parent/guardian or someone who can assist them in an emergency or other special circumstance before they will be allowed to be left unattended. If a child is found to be unattended during a medical emergency, Library staff will first call 911 and then attempt to locate the parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be located, Library staff will contact the local authorities.
5. Children participating in library programs are not considered to be supervised or "attended" by library staff. During scheduled programs that are designed and suitable for attendance by children age 5-9, the parent or caregiver must remain in the building so they are available if needed. Children under the age of five (5) must always be within sight of the adult/guardian responsible for their safety during scheduled programs. Children 10-17 may attend programming without supervision.
6. Parents must pick up children at closing time. Library staff will not transport or escort a child to another location under any circumstance. If no parent/caregiver is located, the Library reserves the right to contact the local authorities.
7. School aged children who are home schooled must document their status. Staff may call the parent/guardian to confirm home school status, or online school ID may be used as proof of home school or Virtual School status. Children who fail to provide proper identification will be reported as truant.