

Unattended Children Policy

The Westport Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the Library, attend programs, and use the Library collections.

Library staff is available to assist and support children in using the Library. However, parents/caregivers should be mindful that the Library is a public building open to all individuals and that unattended children may be vulnerable. Responsibility for the behavior and safety of children using the Library rests with their parents/caregivers and not with Library staff. Staff cannot be placed in a position of supervising unattended children.

Children under the age of 12

- Children under 12 must be supervised in the Library at all times by a parent or a caregiver who is at least 14 years old, unless the child is in a supervised Library program. Parents/caregivers of young children may be required to remain outside the program room so that they are easily accessible to Library staff.

Children age 12 and older

- Children 12 years and older may use the Library unaccompanied by an adult, provided they are able to comply with the Library's Code of Conduct and do not require excessive staff attention. The Library reserves the right to require parental supervision of minors over 12 who do not comply with the Code of Conduct.
- Parents/caregivers are expected to be aware of the Library's opening and closing times and that the operating hours might change unexpectedly. Parents/caregivers must collect their children or ensure safe alternate arrangements for children to get home prior to closing times. Staff cannot monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it the staff's responsibility to know with whom a child is leaving.
- If a child remains in the Library at closing time, the police may be called. Under no circumstances can a Library staff member or volunteer drive a child home.

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on November 11, 2020.