

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY REVISED

Middle Country Public Library welcomes patrons of all ages to use its facilities and services. Responsibility for children (under 18 years of age) using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver and the Library cannot guarantee absolute safety to everyone using the Library. Parents are responsible for monitoring the behavior of their children in compliance with the Library's Patron Behavior Policy. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety, behavior and comfort of unattended children. Staff cannot be expected to monitor or prevent an unattended child from leaving the building or grounds.

Children 10 years of age and younger must be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or responsible adult caregiver at all times. Library staff observing unattended children will make reasonable efforts to locate the adult responsible for the child's presence in the Library. If no responsible adult can be reached, staff will notify the police.

Children 11 years of age or older may use the Library unattended provided they are able to maintain proper Library behavior in accordance with the Library's Patron Behavior Policy.

If, in the judgment of the staff, an unsupervised child's conduct, age or maturity level or the conduct or age of those with or responsible for the child, exposes the child or others to risk, disrupts the operation of the Library, violates any of the Patron Behavior Policy or requires continual staff intervention, the staff will require that such child leave the Library. If, in the judgment of the staff, the child cannot safely leave the premises without adult supervision due to age, capacity, time of day or other circumstance the staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver and request the child's removal from the Library. If a parent/guardian or caregiver is unavailable proper authorities will be notified.

We ask parents to be familiar with the Library's hours; to make advance arrangements to pick up their children and to inform their child of what action to take in the event of an unexpected Library closing.

If a child of any age remains at the Library at closing time, Library staff will make every reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian/caregiver. If a child is not picked up within 15 minutes of Library closing, staff will notify the police. Library employees are not permitted to drive a child to another destination, nor to leave a child alone outside the Library.

Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of Library privileges.

*Adopted February 24, 1988 by the Board of Trustees of the Middle Country Public Library.
Revised July 21, 2021.*