

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

(See also Library Use Policy)

The Mechanicsville Public Library welcomes library use by children. Staff members are available to assist children with library materials or services. The purpose of the unattended children policy is to maintain a safe and secure environment for children using the library and to reinforce that parents or guardians are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children at all times.

Supervision of children:

Children under eight (8) must be always accompanied by a responsible person in the immediate vicinity. A responsible person must also accompany any children who need supervision on library visits as determined by library staff. The responsible person must be at least twelve (12) years old.

A child under the age of eight (8) may participate in a library program without an adult present, but the parent/caregiver must immediately join the child at the end of the program. If a child is left unattended, library staff will attempt to contact the parent/caregiver and may call the police.

Children eight (8) years or older who can maintain proper library behavior may use the library unattended. Parents or guardians are expected to set reasonable time limits for their older children's visits to the library.

All patrons are expected to abide by the Library Use Policy. Children violating the Library Use Policy will result in library staff speaking to the parent/caregiver about existing policy as a warning. If the child repeats the violation, both the child and parent/caregiver may be asked to leave the library.

Staff will make a reasonable effort to ensure that children leave the library comfortably and safely at closing time. If any children remain at the library 15 minutes after closing, staff will contact the Police Department to ensure safe transport.

Adopted:--- | Revised: 11/8/17 | Revised: 8/5/20 | Revised/Approved: 4/5/23