

Safe Children Policy

No Unaccompanied Children

The Mamaroneck Public Library is an inclusive place for learning and growth, and we encourage all patrons to enjoy what the Library has to offer the community. Children are welcome to use the facilities, resources and services of the Library, however responsibility for the behavior, safety and security of children visiting the Library rests exclusively with the parent, guardian or assigned caregiver (“caregiver”), and **not with library personnel**. The Library and its staff are not responsible for children left alone.

Caregivers should remember that the Library is a public space, open to all who choose to enter, and the Library is not a guarantor of the safety of the children who use our facilities. Please do not ask Library staff to supervise your child so that you may leave the area or the building.

- Caregivers must be at least 14 years old.
- Children aged 11-13 may be left unaccompanied at the discretion of a responsible caregiver.
- Children aged 10 or younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver at all times.

Caregivers must be aware of the closing time of the Library. If a child is left on their own at closing time (or in the event of an emergency closing), library personnel will do all that is reasonable to contact a caregiver, if not able to contact a caregiver, police will be notified and the police will assume responsibility for the child. Library personnel cannot be responsible for an unaccompanied child in the case of a medical emergency. Library personnel cannot provide food, transport or money to children or medical management, or toileting assistance or supervision.



Behavior

Children (accompanied or not) who are disorderly or disruptive, who create a security or safety issue or who become a danger to themselves or to others anywhere on library property will be asked to correct their behavior or will be asked to leave the Library. Disruptive behavior consists of running, climbing, yelling, using abusive language, damaging library property, or any other behavior that interferes with the use of the Library by other patrons. This will be determined by library personnel observing the behavior.

Adults in the Children's Room

The children's area of the Library is reserved for children, their parents or responsible adult caregivers. Out of concern for the safety of young patrons, adults who are unaccompanied by a child or children in the children's area of the Library may be questioned by staff, and may be asked to move to another area of the Library, if deemed appropriate by staff on duty.

Adopted: February 9th 2011

Reviewed: May 8th 2024

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Next review: 2029