

## **Children in the Library Policy**

Any child aged 11 or under may use the library, including the Children's Room, only when accompanied and supervised by a person aged 12 or older. Children aged 12-17 may use the library independently without a supervising person in the building.

An exception is made when a child aged 11 or under is attending a scheduled function for their age group. In that case, however, the parent or supervising person may leave the space where the program is being held but cannot leave the Library.

Library staff members are not responsible for unattended children under the age of 12. A parent or guardian may be notified if the child is unattended or needs supervision. If a child under 12 is still unaccompanied fifteen minutes after the Library's closing time, the Police Department may be notified.

Parents/guardians should be aware that the Library is a public space where the staff cannot guarantee a child's safety. The reading, viewing, and hearing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of their parents/guardians, who guide and oversee their own children's development.

Approved by  
Reuben Hoar Library Trustees  
September 12, 2024