

Policy: Unattended Children

Service to children is a very high priority of the Princeton Public Library. Children of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to use the library's materials, programs, and services. At the same time, the Library is an open, public building, and the well being of children left alone is a serious concern. The Library does not accept responsibility for the supervision of unattended children. Parents and other caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior and safety in the library.

The following guidelines have been established to ensure that children are safe and cared for while in the library:

- *Children under the age of six (6) must be attended in the library by a responsible caregiver age thirteen (13) or older.*
- *Children age six (6) and older may be left unattended providing they are mature enough to stay alone and observe proper conduct. In the event an unaccompanied child less than thirteen (13) years of age violates the Library's Code of Conduct in a manner that requires exclusion from the library, staff will attempt to contact a parent or caregiver to apprise them of the situation.*
- *Children of any age with mental, physical or emotional problems which require necessary supervision, should be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver.*
- *If a staff member discovers an unattended child under the age of six (6), he/she will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of the child. If a parent or a guardian cannot be contacted, the library will notify the local police department.*
- *When the library closes, staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian of any unattended child who is found to be uncomfortable with the situation. If a parent or guardian cannot be contacted within a half hour, the local police department will be notified.*

Adopted by the Board of Trustees April 20, 2004.