

Weedsport Free Library

Unattended Children Policy

The Weedsport Free Library welcomes children and hopes that children who use the Library perceive it as a wonderful place to be. The Library believes that the library experience will be most positive for children when accompanied by a parent, guardian or other adult designated by the parent or guardian.

It is not safe to leave young children unattended in the Library, as it is a public place with strangers and no supervision possible by the staff. It is also not fair to other library patrons. Unattended children may become restless, noisy and even destructive. This behavior will cause staff to ask, and if that is not successful, then tell, the child to behave, which may create a negative experience for the child.

For the protection and well-being of our patrons, adults and children alike, the following policies have been established for children **under the age of 12**.

- With some exceptions, children under the age of 12 may not be left unattended at the Library. They must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other adult aged 18 or more approved by the parent or guardian.
- Parents of children aged 7 and under must remain in the same room as the child. Very young children must have an adult in arm's reach at all times with eyes on the child because the library is not baby or childproofed. Shelving, small toys, large books can be dangerous to young children. Therefore, parents may not use computers while their young children play unwatched.
- Most of our children's programs are designed for both the child and their parent. Parents must attend any meeting, program, or event at which their child is present and, must remain in the Library building for the duration of the meeting or program and retrieve their child immediately at the conclusion of the event.
- If a program is a "drop-off" program, parents will be informed and a pick up time will be given. Children attending programs will be supervised by library staff or the volunteer running the program only while the program is ongoing.
- If a parent of a child under the age of 12 wishes to leave the building, it is their responsibility to request another adult be responsible in their absence, and notify the library staff. This provision also applies to any adult who may bring the children of friends or relatives, etc. to a meeting, program or event.

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