

## **Child Behavior and Supervision Policy**

Abbott Library, Sunapee, NH

The Abbott Library Board of Trustees and Library staff are eager for children to use the library and welcome those who do so. Service to children is an important part of the Library's mission.

The Library is a public building open to all individuals. It is not the Library staff's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for children. If a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library without an adult. The staff cannot monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it their responsibility to know if a child is leaving with a parent, guardian, relative, friend or stranger. The Library does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of the parent) which is the standard held in the public schools.

1. The Library cannot guarantee the safety of, or assume responsibility for, a child of any age who is at the Library.
2. At all times, caregivers are responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on Library premises. Caregivers must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, the abilities and the levels of responsibility of their children. Parents or the guardians will be held responsible for all liability for personal injury and damage done by their children to the library materials, equipment or building.
3. Children aged 8 or younger must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult at all times. A responsible adult means someone over the age of 16 who is taking an active role in attending to the younger child.
4. Children aged 9 or older may use the Library unattended provided their behavior does not interfere with others' rights to enjoy the Library and adheres to the Library's safety policy.
5. Children who behave in a disruptive manner will be told to leave the Library. Unattended children must be able to leave the Library on their own.
6. Continued inappropriate behavior will result in additional and long term restrictions from Library at the discretion of the Library Director.
7. Parents and/or caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the Library, bearing in mind that these hours can and do change. Power failures, bad weather or other emergencies can occur and require unexpected closing of the Library.
8. If a child is left at the Library after closing time, or as the result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the Library building or transport children to another location except in the case of an emergency, such as a fire, that threatens the safety of the child, in which case the child may be taken out of the Library and moved to a safe location on Library property.

Approved by the Abbott Library Board of Trustees April 21, 2015

Revised and approved by the Abbott Library Board of Trustees October 19, 2023