



Billerica Public Library

CHILD SAFETY POLICY:

The Billerica Public Library welcomes children of all ages to utilize our materials and services. We encourage the use of the library by children and parents together, especially as children are introduced to the services the library can provide.

The role of the staff at the Billerica Public Library is to assist children and parents in selecting materials, answering questions about library services and to encourage the use of additional programs and services as they are developed. In addition, our goal is to provide a safe atmosphere where children and adults alike feel welcome in the library. The Library is not equipped, and it is not the Library's role to provide long or short-term childcare.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy the following definitions will be used:

Unattended Children:

Under 9 years old and unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, or other caregiver;

Under 9 years old and on a different floor of the Library from a parent, guardian, or other caregiver; or otherwise unsupervised by an adult/caregiver.

Under 9 years old and being "supervised" by someone under 15 years old.

Caregiver:

Any individual, at least 15 years of age who is responsible for a child.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Parents/attending caregivers are responsible for the child's behavior at all times while in the building. Children under 9 years old must remain in the company of the parent, guardian or caregiver age 15 years or older unless the child is participating in storytime or any other library program, in which case, the parent, guardian or caregiver is

expected to remain in the Children's Room area and to join the child immediately at the end of the program.

Children age 9 and older may use the Library unattended providing they are mature enough to stay alone and observe proper conduct. Such children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and the same consequences, including being asked to leave the Library.

Any individual subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to revocation or suspension of library privileges, may appeal the decision to the Library Trustees within 30 days of such decision. The Library Trustees require that all appeals be in writing.

Library staff will not seek out unattended children but if an unattended child or a child being supervised by a child under 15 yrs old comes to the attention of staff, staff will attempt to locate the caregiver.

*Revised by vote of the Board of Library Trustees
April 2016*