

Goshen Public Library

Unattended Child Policy

The Goshen Public Library is free and open to all and it especially encourages the use of the Library by children of all ages.

Unattended children under 12 years of age are not permitted in the library. Children over 12 years of age who are independent and responsible enough to use the resources for education, information and recreation are welcome provided they abide by the rules of conduct that apply to all library patrons.

Our Library staff performs a variety of duties to ensure the best possible service is provided to all patrons. As a result, the staff can not monitor the whereabouts or behavior of children left unattended. The staff does not monitor children leaving the premises, nor is it their responsibility to know if a child is leaving with a parent, guardian, friend or stranger.

In order to communicate the Library's concern for the safety and welfare of the children of our community and to increase parental awareness of potential problems, the Library has adopted the following policy regarding unattended children:

1. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children and must provide adequate supervision at all times.
2. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver 16 years of age or older at all times. If a child under the age of 12 is attending a library program, a parent/guardian must collect the child promptly at the conclusion of the program.
3. A child who is not using the Library resources appropriately, whose behavior is disruptive or who requires excessive staff

- attention may be asked to leave the Library after proper verbal warning has been given by staff or Library Director.
4. If the Library is closing and the child is unable to contact a parent/guardian, a staff member will remain with the child for 15 minutes after the Library has closed. If, at that time, the parent/guardian has still not arrived, the police will be notified and the child transferred to the proper authorities. No staff member is obligated to stay with the child beyond the reasonable accommodation of 15 minutes and under no circumstances will a staff member transport children home or to any other destination.
 5. Inappropriate behavior such as running, yelling, or any physical contact will not be tolerated. In cases of destructive and/or inappropriate behavior, the staff reserves the right to notify parents and/or guardians and the police if necessary.
 6. Parents are expected to be aware of the opening and closing time of the Library, bearing in mind that these times are subject to change due to weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances. Parents should not direct their children to the Library in the event of an emergency school closing as the same conditions may cause the Library to close.

Relevant CT State Statues: Sec 53-21a

Approved by the Goshen Public Library Board of Directors

May 18, 2011

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