

Child Safety Policy



The Walpole Public Library is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for families and children. To make the Library an enjoyable place and to encourage a love of books, reading, and learning, we offer designated Children's Rooms, programs, and services for children. We hope you will help your children make effective use of the Library and assist them in selecting books and materials, using technology, or attending programs. Together, we can provide a fun and positive experience when visiting the Walpole Public Library.

Access to Children's Room

The Children's Room is specifically designed to serve the needs of young patrons in our libraries. Children and their caregivers can browse and select materials and use the Children's Room and technology. Teens and adults in the Children's Room are encouraged to browse and select materials in the Children's Room as well; however, to preserve the Children's Room for use by children, teens and adults not accompanied by children will be asked to use other Rooms of the libraries for reading, studying, and other activities. Children are defined as individuals 14 years old and younger.

Unattended Children

Staff members are not responsible for supervising individual children. If your child is under the age of 10, please be sure he/she is supervised at all times by a responsible caregiver aged 15 or older. If library staff cannot locate a parent or caregiver, local law enforcement will be notified to assure the child's safety. Children participating in a Library program without a parent or caregiver are not considered unattended as long as the parent or caregiver remains in the Children's Room.

Parent Expectations and Responsibilities

Because the Library is a public place, children's safety cannot be guaranteed. Children may encounter hazards such as stairs, elevators, doors, furniture, electrical equipment, or other Library patrons. The conduct, safety, and supervision of children while on Library premises is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caregivers to determine the needs of their children and to provide supervision accordingly. While our staff values the safety of children, only parents, guardians, and caregivers can provide appropriate supervision of children. Please remember that the Library's Standards of Conduct apply to children as well as adults. After enjoying the Children's Room, please pick-up any toys, puzzles or puppets that your child has used. Children must be picked up before the Library closes. Once the Library is closed, children cannot wait inside the building and staff is unavailable to stay with children until they are picked up.

Staff Role

The library encourages frequent visits by children and their families. However, library staff cannot provide child care or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians, teachers and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library. Staff cannot be placed in the position of supervising unattended children. In case of medical emergency when a parent or guardian is not with the child, library staff will contact the Walpole Fire Department and then the parent or guardian, in that order.