

Unattended Child Policy

Eastern Shore Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment that encourages children and their families to visit the library and attend library programs. The library staff is available to assist children with their use of library resources; however, the library cannot provide child care or be responsible for children's safety. Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety of children visiting the library.

An unattended child is a child of any age who is apparently unaccompanied by a parent, guardian, and/or responsible caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the Library and must have adequate supervision while in the Library. The library staff does not provide supervision for unattended children.

Disruptive Behavior

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers are advised that children, like all library users, are expected to comply with the Library's "Behavior Policy." Parents, guardians and/or caregivers accompanying children of any age who are being disruptive will be reminded that appropriate behavior of their children is a requirement of the library. Children may also be directly reminded by staff. If the disruptive behavior continues, accompanying adults and the children will be asked to leave the library. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library, whether or not the parents are present.

Children Under Age 8

Children under the age of 8 must always be accompanied by a parent, older sibling, or responsible childcare provider while in the library. If a child under the age of 8 is attending a library program or activity, the parent or responsible childcare provider must remain in the library throughout the program. Children over the age of 8, who do not demonstrate an ability and a willingness to care for themselves, or do not behave in a responsible manner may not be left alone in the Library.

Closing Time

Parents, guardians and/or caregivers must inform themselves as to scheduled library closing times and be aware that a library facility sometimes may have to close unexpectedly due to emergencies, safety issues, or weather conditions. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and/or caregivers to give children/minors their contact information and inform them about what they should do if the library has to close early. If a child is left unattended when the library closes, two library staff members will wait with the child for 15 minutes past closing, after which time they will call the police or sheriff's department. Under no circumstances will staff transport children in a vehicle or accompany them home.

Approved and Adopted by the ESPL Board of Trustees on May 14, 2019.