



UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

The Stoughton Public Library welcomes children of all ages and strives to create a safe and pleasant environment for all patrons. The Library offers materials, programs, and services that encourage children to develop a love of books and reading. However, the Library is a public building, and the well-being of young children left alone at the Library is a serious concern. The responsibility for children using the Library rests with the child's parent/guardian or a designated adult caregiver.

The safety and well-being of every child is very important. To ensure their protection and to maintain a pleasant library environment for all patrons, the Stoughton Board of Library Trustees has adopted the following policy.

AGES 10 AND UNDER

Parents/caregivers are not to leave young children under age 11 unaccompanied or unsupervised by an adult in the library. The library staff is not responsible for them. Appropriate agencies (Police, etc.) will be contacted if necessary.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. If a child's conduct interferes with another patrons' ability to use the Library in violation of the Library Use Policy, the child and his/her parent/caregiver will be asked to leave Library Property.

AGES 11 to 17

Children old enough to use the Library alone should be familiar with Library policies and hours of service. If their conduct interferes with another patron's ability to use the Library in violation of the Library Use Policy, they will be asked to leave Library property. Children should know how to reach a parent or caregiver during their visit.

If children under 18 years old are left in the building at closing time, staff cannot take children out of the building. Staff will make every effort to notify parents to retrieve the children. If no parent/guardian/caregiver can be notified, Police are to be called to notify parents and take charge of children. If Police do not respond, two staff members must remain until either the Police respond or the parent picks up the child.