



Supervision of Children Policy

Effective date: November 19, 2025

Policy Statement

The Sharon Public Library Board of Trustees and staff seek to create an inviting and safe place for children to develop a love of reading and find materials that serve their informational, educational, and recreational needs. Children are encouraged to visit the Library and take advantage of its resources. The following policy statement and accompanying procedures are designed to address the Board's concern for the welfare of children and are not intended to restrict, discourage, or frustrate appropriate use of the Library.

Definitions

Unattended Child: An unattended child is any child who is in the Library or on Library grounds alone or a child whose parent or caregiver is in the Library but is not adequately supervising that child. The latter situation may occur when the adult and child are in separate areas of the building or when the adult is present but is focused on something else and is not supervising the child.

Policy Statement

1. Children of all ages are welcome in the Library. However, it is the responsibility of caregivers to ensure their appropriate behavior. **Even in their absence, parents/guardians are legally responsible for their children's safety and behavior.**
2. **Children in grades 4 and under must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or other responsible caregivers of at least 14 years of age.** This person needs to be with the child at all times and be aware of what the child is doing to avoid danger to the child or damage to Library equipment and collections. Exceptions can be made by the Director, Head of Youth Services, or supervisory staff on a case-by-case basis.
3. When children in grades 4 and under attend a Library program, a responsible caregiver must remain in the Library for the duration of the program.
4. Children in grades 5 and above may use the Library unattended but are subject to the general rules and regulations in effect regarding behavior and conduct. Additionally, they still are legally the responsibility of their parents/guardians and should have an emergency contact available.
5. As with all patrons, children determined by the staff to be disrupting normal Library activities will be given two warnings. If the behavior persists, they will be asked to leave the Library premises. Parents/guardians leaving children at the Library need to be aware of this

policy and should ensure their child knows how to reach them. It is not the responsibility of Library staff to arrange a ride home for children asked to leave.

6. If a child in grades four or under is left unattended, the staff will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent to pick up the child. If the parent cannot be reached or is unable to arrive in a timely manner, the staff will contact the Sharon Police Department to take custody of the child.
7. The Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended by their parents or caregivers. Staff may bring to the attention of the responsible parent or caregiver behavior that is not appropriate for the Library setting or that may place the child in danger, but staff members do not actively monitor children.
8. Library staff members are not authorized to transport any child away from the Library under any circumstances.
9. In the case of a medical emergency involving a child, the staff will call 911 for emergency assistance and then attempt to contact a parent/guardian, in that order.