

Allenstown Public Library Child Safety Policy

Library Trustees and staff wish to ensure the safety and comfort of all children in the library. The library is a public building, open to everyone, and as such carries an inherent risk. Parents or caregivers are responsible for their children in the library. Library staff are available to assist and support children in using the library, but Library staff are not responsible for children left unattended on the library premises. For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy libraries, the following policy has been established:

- Children aged eight (8) and under must be accompanied and continuously supervised by a parent, guardian, or other person (who shall be a minimum age of 12 per the American Red Cross) while in the Library.
- Parents are responsible for the behavior of minor children at all times, even if they are not in the library with the child. Library staff does not serve *in loco parentis* in place of the parent.
- The Library staff is not responsible for preventing a minor from leaving the Library or Library ground. The library is not responsible for activity outside the building.
- The parent or guardian must stay in the library building while their child, age eight (8) or younger, attends a library-sponsored program.
- All visitors to the library must conduct themselves in accordance with the Library's Code of Conduct Policy. Disruptive behavior, including shouting, running, pushing, or other rambunctious activities, is prohibited. Staff will ask disruptive children to leave library property. The responsible adult will be notified when older children using the library independently show a pattern of not adhering to the guidelines of this policy. The library staff will contact the police as appropriate.
- Parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children have transportation to and from the library. When an unattended child is left at the library at closing time without transportation, library staff will make every effort to contact the child's parents/guardians/caregivers using the information provided by the child, the patron database, or the telephone directory. If no one can be found, library staff will contact the Allenstown Police Department. Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home.
- As used in this policy, the term "parent" may include legal guardians or persons with custody or control of a minor.
- The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents forfeiting their responsibilities.