

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees

The Falmouth Public Library welcomes frequent visits by children and their families to use and enjoy the facilities, collections and programs offered by the library. 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. To ensure the safety and well-being of children in the library, the following policies have been established:

Children under ten must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or adult caregiver.

Children age ten or older may be left unattended for the period of time needed to select materials, complete a homework assignment, or attend a program but they must be able to reach an adult in case of an emergency.

Both children and adults must be aware of the library hours. Parents will be called if a child is left unattended when the library is closing. If the parent is unavailable, the Falmouth Police Department will be called to ensure the safety of the child.

All children are expected to behave in a manner conducive to maintaining an appropriate atmosphere in the building for all patrons. Disruptive behavior including shouting, running, pushing, or rowdy activities is not acceptable.

Disruptive children of any age may be asked to leave the building.

Approved by Board of Trustees: Dec 2005, July 2016

The Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees reserves the right to alter, amend, or terminate this policy.