

Unattended Children

The Weeks Public Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the library and encourages them to read, to explore various electronic formats, to attend programs and to make full use of library resources. Although staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children using the library, our facilities are not designed or licensed to provide childcare or emergency care. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is unattended by a responsible adult or caregiver. The Library and its staff cannot and will not act in loco parentis for any child for any purpose at any time. Parents or guardians are advised that the library is not responsible for children who are left unattended on library premises.

The library reminds parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users. Children should be supervised at all times and taught and reminded that the materials in the library must be respected and treated with care. With these considerations in mind, the following rules apply:

1. Children in grades 4 and below must be accompanied by a designated responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 years or older while in the library. Children aged 10 or younger may not be left unattended in the library for any amount of time. The responsible caregiver must have contact information for an adult who is legally responsible for the child.
2. Children 5 years old and younger must be directly supervised by a designated responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older in all rooms of the library, including the children's room.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library, whether or not the parent/guardian is present.
4. At the discretion of the parent/guardian, children in grades 5 and above, or a child older than age 10 may be left unattended in the library for a reasonable amount of time to select materials, work on homework, use Library resources, or attend a library program. The child must know how to reach a parent/guardian or responsible caregiver (at least 16 or older) should the need arise. Children should not be left alone in the Library for excessively long (more than 2 hours) periods of time.
5. When older children are visiting the library by themselves, the adult responsible for the child will be contacted if the child's behavior is inappropriate for the library and guidance from the staff has been ignored. If the adult cannot be reached, and behavior is deemed dangerous or unacceptably disruptive, the police will be notified.
6. Children must be picked up no later than 5 minutes before closing time. Children left unattended at closing time will have an opportunity to contact an adult. If no contact can be made, or if a ride has not arrived within 10 minutes of closing, the police will be called to supervise the child until an adult arrives. Library employees are not permitted to transport children to another location. Adults should note posted library hours (subject to change).

Approved by the Weeks Public Library Trustees: 10.10.2023