

# **Lawrence Library**

## **Child Behavior Policy**

The Lawrence Library welcomes patrons of all ages.

The Lawrence Library is a public building. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the supervision of their children. Library staff can not take the place of a parent, act as babysitter, or assume responsibility for unsupervised children. Staff members have many duties to perform in service to patrons and cannot monitor the whereabouts or safety of unattended children.

Guidelines for Supervision:

1. Children of age eight and under shall be supervised at all times in the immediate presence of a parent or other responsible caregiver identified by their parent/guardian.
2. Children of ages 9 - 12 may be left unsupervised in the Children's Room while the parent or assigned caregiver is in another part of the library providing that:
  - A library staff member is present and told where the parent/caregiver will be in the building.
  - The child is able to behave appropriately while unsupervised.
  - The length of time the child is left alone does not exceed the child's comfort level with the situation.
3. People attending meetings who are accompanied by children must provide adequate supervision. Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by one adult for every four children. Activities must stay in the room booked and should not impact other library patrons.
4. All children must be picked up prior to the closing time of the library. Reasonable efforts will be made to locate the parent/guardian (relative or neighbor if necessary) of an unsupervised child at the time of closing; if a responsible person can not be contacted, Pepperell Police will be called and will assume responsibility for the child.

Library staff members are not responsible for supervising children in any area of the library.

*Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees January 2, 2008; Amendments approved November 7, 2018, November 6, 2019, and December 2, 2021, and March 12, 2025.*