

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Rogers Free Library provides a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit, attend programs and use its collection and devices. Library staff members are available to assist and support children in using the library.

That said, the library is not legally responsible for children who are left unattended. Children under the age of 10 **MUST** be accompanied and supervised by a parent/caregiver who is at least 15 years old. The library does not provide child care, supervise unattended children, or assume responsibility for their safety.

Since parents/ caregivers are responsible for the safety and behavior of their children at all times, they are asked to remain in the immediate vicinity to monitor their child's/children's behavior.

If a child is found unattended, the staff will make every effort to locate a parent in the building. If he/she is not found, the child must provide contact information in case of emergency: name, address, and phone number. The library staff will contact the parent and inform them of the policy. The Youth Services Librarian and the Director will be informed of the situation.

Like all library users, children are expected to behave appropriately and abide by the Rules of Conduct in the library. Other Children's Department rules include:

1. Footwear must be worn at all times.
2. No food or drinks are to be brought into the department by patrons except for baby bottles.
3. Parents / caregivers must not leave the library while their children, under the age of 10, attend a library program.

Disruptive children who violate the Rules of Conduct may be asked to leave the library. Library staff reserves the right to contact parents or the Bristol Police Department if an unattended child under the age of 10 is being disruptive or is in distress.

Closing Time

When children are left in the library at closing time, library staff will make every effort to contact the parents/caregiver to pick them up. If no one can be found, library staff may contact the Bristol Police Department.

Approved by the Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees 01/21/2021