

Milton Public Library: Safe Child Policy

Policy Statement

The staff of the Milton Public Library seeks to create for children an inviting place to develop a love of books and reading, as well as a place to find materials which serve their informational, educational and recreational needs. Children are encouraged to visit the library, and to take advantage of its resources.

The Library Board of Trustees recognizes its obligation to consider the safety and welfare of children while they are in the library. Many children are capable of using the library on their own, and should not be discouraged from doing so. However, some children left alone become frightened or anxious, while others may exhibit behavior inappropriate to a library setting. The following policy statement and accompanying procedures are designed to address the Board's concern for the welfare of children, and are not intended to restrict, discourage or frustrate appropriate use of the library.

In order to create an environment of safety, and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been created.

Definitions

Unattended Child

An unattended child is any child in the library alone, or a child whose parent or caregiver is in the library but is not adequately supervising that child. The latter situation may occur when the adult and child are in separate areas of the building, or when the adult is using library materials or equipment and is not supervising the child.

Policy Statement

1. Children of all ages are welcome in the library. However, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure their appropriate behavior.
2. The Library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended by their parents or caregivers. Staff may bring to the attention of the responsible parent or caregiver behavior that is not appropriate for a library setting or that may place the child in danger, however, Library staff do not seek out unattended children
3. Children aged seven and under must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or other responsible caregiver of at least 14 years of age. This person needs to be with the child at all times and be aware of what the child is doing to avoid danger to the child or damage to the library's equipment and collections.
4. Children eight and older may use the library unattended, but are subject to the general rules and regulations in effect regarding behavior and conduct.
5. Children determined by the staff to be disrupting normal library activities may be given one warning or may be asked to leave if the behavior persists. Parents leaving children at the library

need to be aware of this policy, and should ensure that their child knows how to reach the parents to arrange to be picked up, or in case of other emergency.

6. In the event that a child is unattended at the library as closing time approaches, the staff will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent to come and pick up the child. If the parent cannot be reached, or is unable to arrive by closing time, staff will contact the Milton Police Department to take custody of the child until the parents can be reached or can arrive.
7. Library staff members are not authorized to transport any child away from the Library under any circumstances.
8. In the case of a medical emergency involving an unattended child, the staff will call 911 for emergency assistance and then attempt to contact a parent/guardian, in that order.