

WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Use of the Library By Children

The staff at Westhampton Public Library hopes that children using the library will find it an inviting place to develop an appreciation 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 staff does not regulate any materials children may access in the library.

The Board of Trustees recognizes its obligation to consider the safety and welfare of children while they are in the Library. This policy is designed to address the Board's concern for the welfare of children, and is not intended to restrict, discourage or frustrate appropriate use of the library. Children of all ages are welcome in the library. However, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure their appropriate behavior. The library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended by their parent/guardian or caregiver. For the purposes of this policy, an unattended child refers to a child in the library alone, or a child whose parent/guardian 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 their child. Responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or an assigned chaperone. Young children should be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or caregiver who is a responsible person of at least twelve years of age. Older children may use the library unattended provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior.

If a child is left unattended in the library, and is exhibiting inappropriate behavior, the staff will inform the parents of library policy prohibiting this. If the child is repeatedly left unsupervised, parents will be notified that their child is no longer permitted to use the library unattended.

Westhampton Public Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended in the library.