

## **POLICY FOR UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

The Babylon Public Library welcomes children and strives to provide a warm and pleasant atmosphere for them. In order to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the Library and in fairness to our staff, the following policies have been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Babylon Public Library:

1. While in the Library, children age 10 or younger shall be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible person (parent, caregiver or mature adolescent, age 14 or over).
2. Responsible parties must remain in the library while children attend storyhours or other library programs.
3. Children over the age of 10 may be unaccompanied but must, as always, observe Library rules.
4. Parents and caregivers, not Library staff, are responsible for the behavior of their children. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The police may be contacted to deal with disruptive individuals.
5. When the well-being of an unattended child is in doubt, the Library staff will attempt to contact the parents. If parents are unavailable, the Library reserves the right to contact the police.
6. Parents and caregivers must be aware of the Library's opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children. If a child is unaccompanied in the Library at closing time, every effort will be made to assist the child in calling his/her parent or caregiver.
7. If at closing time a child has been abandoned or if a child's ride home has not materialized, it is not Library policy to leave the child unattended outside the building. If the parents cannot be reached by telephone or if the waiting periods exceed 15 minutes, proper authorities will be contacted. In no event will a staff member drive the child to a particular destination.
8. Occasionally the Library may need to close without advance notice as a result of an emergency. Children should be advised about what action you wish them to take in the event

of an unexpected Library closure.

9. If a chronic situation should develop with a particular child, an appropriate letter will be sent to the parent by the director.
10. Violations of these policies could result in the suspension of Library privileges.

During times of a public health emergency and/or infectious disease outbreak, the *Policy for Unattended Children* will be temporarily modified to require all children under age 14 to be accompanied by a responsible adult in order to use the Library.

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Policy 600-120

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Reconfirmed 7/1/10, 7/1/11, 7/12, 7/13, 7/14, 7/15, 7/16, 7/17

Amended 6/30/20