

Policy: 403.2
Subject: Unattended Children/Disruptive Behavior
Reviewed: 07/08/2003, 1/27/2004, 11/06/2006, 04/05/2010, 10/10/2012
Approved: 07/08/2003
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The purpose of this policy is to provide for the safety and well-being of children on Milford Public Library premises.

1. Milford Public Library accepts no responsibility for unattended children on library premises.
2. Parents or responsible caregivers are accountable for their children's behavior.
3. The Library can not function as a baby-sitting service or day care facility.
4. In accordance with local ordinance:
 - a. Children under the age of five must be accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver over the age of 17 at all times. (i.e. children under the age of five cannot be left in library while parent or responsible caregiver attends a meeting or program in the Library's Community Room.)
 - b. Children ages five through ten may use the library and attend library programs independently, while parent or responsible caregiver over the age of 17 remains in the open areas of the library.
 - c. Children ages eleven and above may attend library programs and use the library independently.
5. Climbing on tables, shelving, or other library furnishings is prohibited.
6. Disruptive behavior is defined as noisy, boisterous, or excessively active behavior which is inappropriate where patrons are engaged in reading, study, or other quiet recreational use of Library facilities.
7. Library staff are authorized to exercise the following measures:
 - a. Firmly explain policy on inappropriate behavior to parent or child involved.
 - b. If parent or responsible caregiver refuses or is unable to control child, they will be asked to leave the library.
 - c. If the child is not accompanied by a parent or responsible caregiver, the parent will be contacted to pick up child immediately.
 - d. If parent cannot pick up child immediately, child will be kept under supervision. A second incident will result in police being called to handle child.
 - e. At closing, if an unattended child has not been picked up, police should be notified, after attempting to call parents.
 - f. An incident report will be filed with the director.
 - g. Under no circumstances should a staff member take a child from the building.
 - h. No staff member should touch a child in attempting to get the child to leave. In extreme cases, contact the police.