

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

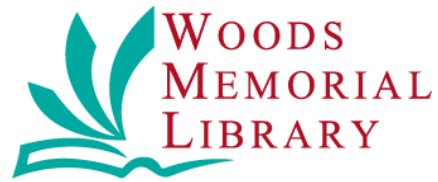
In an effort to provide a comfortable and safe environment for all who use the Woods Memorial Library, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted a policy regarding unattended children and child safety.

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

1. The safety of children left alone in the building is a serious concern. The library is a public building that may attract persons whose interests in children may not be entirely wholesome. It is up to the parents or caregivers to attend young children at all times. Library staff and volunteers are NOT responsible for children who are left unattended.
 - a. Parents or caregivers may not leave children age 11 or under unattended in the library.
 - b. Children of middle and high school age (e.g. age 12 to 17) may be left unattended for periods of time when attending library programs, doing research for school projects, or finding materials to check out. Parents and guardians are expected to be aware that their child is at the library. Children will be expected to display appropriate behavior conducive to maintaining a peaceful atmosphere for all patrons. The child or children will be asked to leave the premises if proper behavior is not maintained. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both child and adult should be aware of library hours.
2. If children's behavior disturbs other library users, the children will be asked to leave the building after being warned once.
3. If an emergency exists, emergency personnel will be called first and then parents or guardians, in that order.

CHILDREN LEFT AT CLOSING

1. If a child under the age of 12 is found unattended at closing time, library staff will attempt to contact an adult or family member. Staff are not permitted to remain after hours with an unattended child, nor give the child a ride home or offer the child a seat in their vehicle. If a caregiver cannot be reached, staff will notify the Barre Police Department to escort the child home or stay with the child until a caregiver has arrived. The Library Director will be informed whenever this action becomes necessary. The Director will contact the child's parent or guardian to explain the library policy and why this action was required.



PARENTAL/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

1. The Woods Memorial Library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom as stated in the Freedom to Read, Freedom to View, and the Library Bill of Rights, and their interpretations issued by the American Library Association. All patrons have the right for equal opportunity to read, to view, and to hear anything in the library. Parents should be aware that all ages are allowed to browse all sections of the library, and it is not the responsibility of staff to monitor what their children are borrowing. For more information, see section 9 of our *Materials Selection Policy*.
 - a. All children have the right to enjoy books, toys, and programs while in the library.
 - b. All children have the right to use the internet workstations on the main floor in accordance with our *Internet and Wireless Use Policy*.
 - c. All children who hold a library card and whose accounts are in good standing may borrow materials in accordance with library borrowing rules.
2. Parents and guardians are responsible to see that children:
 - Do not run in the library or climb shelving
 - Do not fight with other children
 - Keep away from the parking lot door
 - Do not leave toys scattered about and clean up after themselves
 - Do not destroy library property
 - Adhere to appropriate and respectful behavior during programs
 - Are not ever left alone under age 12