Centerville Public Library Safe Child Guidelines

The Centerville Public Library welcomes the use of its facilities by children of all ages. Our services and programs are offered to make the library a warm and inviting atmosphere for children, to encourage them to visit the library and to develop a love of books, reading and libraries.

Busy public buildings are not secure places for children to be left alone. Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with the parent, guardian or an assigned chaperone. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are unattended.

The Library Board of Trustees believes that it is the parents' responsibility to provide childcare. The purpose of this policy is to inform parents and guardians that the Library does not assume responsibility for the safety of their children, and to provide the guidelines used by staff.

Levels of supervision required:

- **Children age three and under** must always be in close proximity and within sight of the adult responsible for their safety.
- **Children under the age of ten** must be supervised by a parent or caregiver, at all times while in the library.
- **Children ten and older** may be left unattended, providing they are mature enough to follow library rules and observe proper conduct.
- **Unattended children must be picked up before the library closes.** Any child left more than ten minutes beyond closing time will be picked up by the Barnstable Police and taken to the station for their safety.
- **Children of any age with mental, physical or emotional disabilities** which affect decision-making skills or render supervision necessary, must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.
- **Children at programs.** A child may attend a library program by him/herself, however, the caregiver must remain in the library and be ready to meet that child promptly when the program ends. Staff does not monitor the arrival or departure of any child from a program or the building.