

Behavior Guidance Policy for Juvenile Patrons

The Durham Public Library strives to provide a safe, educational, and enjoyable place for children to explore the world of books and information. For the protection and well-being of children, please note the following:

- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and continually supervised by a parent or caregiver at *all times*.
- Parents or caregivers, 14 years of age or older, are responsible for the actions of juveniles under their care and for their compliance in observing Library rules as established by the Durham Public Library Code of Conduct.
- At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child aged 10 or older may be left unattended in the Library. The child must know how to reach the responsible adult should the need arise.
- Should a juvenile violate the rules of the Library Code of Conduct, they may be asked to leave the building for the day. Children will be permitted to call their parent for transportation from the Library.
- Parents or caregivers must stay in the Library building while children under their care, who are under the age of 10, are attending library-sponsored programs. The Library does not have the staffing resources to closely monitor children under the age of 10 who are unattended at the Library.
- Children and their caregivers should be aware of the closing times of the library. Unattended juveniles will be afforded every opportunity to call a parent/guardian upon Library closing.

After Library Closing Procedures for Unattended Children of All Ages

Children and their caregivers should be aware of the closing times of the Library. Unattended juveniles will be afforded every opportunity to call a parent/guardian upon Library closing. If a parent/guardian does not arrive by the time the Library closes the following procedure will be followed:

1. Two staff members will stay with the child until someone arrives to pick him/her up.
2. If a parent/guardian has not arrived within 30 minutes, the Durham Police Department will be alerted that a child has been left unattended at the Library after closing time. The Durham Police Department will accept responsibility for the unattended child and will then try to locate the parent or guardian.
3. Library staff will post a note on the main door of the Library advising the parent/guardian of the circumstances and stating how to contact the Durham Police.
4. Staff members are not authorized to transport unattended children to locations outside of the Library.