

## SAFE CHILD POLICY

The GAR Memorial Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. The staff cannot supervise children or guarantee their safety on library property.

Young children are safe when supervised by a parent or caregiver while in the library. Parents should remember that the library is a public building available for the use of all. For the protection and well-being of children, the following policy has been established:

- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult in the library. The library staff cannot assume responsibility for the safety of an unattended child.
- Parents or caregivers are responsible for the safety of their child at all times and must stay in the library building while their child under the age of 12 is attending a library-sponsored program.
- At the discretion of the parent or responsible caregiver, a child age 12 or older may be left unattended for a period of time, as long as they display appropriate behavior, conducive to maintaining a peaceful atmosphere in the library for all patrons. The child must know how to reach the responsible adult
- The parent or caregiver is responsible for ensuring the appropriate behavior of their children in the library. Disruptive behavior, such as shouting, running, pushing, or other loud or physical activities, will not be tolerated. Children who continue to be disruptive will be asked to leave the building. In the case of an unaccompanied child under 12 years old, an attempt will be made to contact a family member or caregiver to pick the child up. If a family member or caregiver cannot be reached, the West Newbury Police Department may be contacted at the discretion of library staff.
- Should the situation arise that a child under the age of 12 is unattended in the library, attempts to contact or locate a parent or legal guardian will be made. If no parent/guardian can be located or if the library is closing, a staff member will contact the police. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the building or transport to another location.

*This policy has the support of the West Newbury Police department.*

*Approved by the GAR Memorial Library Board of Trustees – May 11, 2016*

*Revised by the GAR Memorial Library Board of Trustees – 2/11/20*