

Oxford Free Public Library

339 Main Street | Oxford, MA 01540
508-987-6003 | oxfordmapubliclibrary.org

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The staff of the Oxford Free Public Library aim to create a warm, inviting, fun environment for all children. The library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books, reading and learning. However, the safety and well-being of children at the library is of serious concern. The Oxford Free Public Library is large, and while the Children's Room is located on one floor, there are staircases and elevator access to exits; some of these are out of sight or earshot of library staff. It is the intention of this policy to enlist the cooperation of parents and other adults responsible for children to ensure that the Oxford Free Public Library can provide a safe and pleasant experience for all who use it.

Please be aware of the following:

The Oxford Free Public Library is not responsible for the well being of children who are left unattended in the Library. The Library staff is here strictly to help you and your children with library needs and the staff is not licensed to perform childcare.

Children 10 years of age and under should be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times. Parents/guardians should be aware that the Library is a public building and is no safer than any other public place or building. With the Children's Room being on a separate level, the same policy applies to children left unattended upstairs while parents/guardians go downstairs to the Adult collection, or any other area of the library.

Children over the age of 5 who are attending library programs that do not require parent/guardian accompaniment are supervised by library staff only during the scheduled time of the program and only while in the Story Time Room (or room in which the program is being held). Staff is not responsible for children who leave the program room. Parents/guardians may not leave the building during this type of program.

The Oxford Free Public Library reserves the right to ask a patron of any age to leave the building if he/she is acting in an inappropriate manner, creating a public nuisance, or inhibiting the rights and privileges of others. Parents assume all liability for damage done by their children to any library property.

Children Left at Closing

Children who are left unattended at the Oxford Free Public Library should know how to get in touch with a parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are reminded that numerous unexpected events may occur in which the Library could close without notice, therefore stranding an unattended child. Staff members are not permitted to remain after the Library closes with an unattended child (unless waiting for the police) nor are they permitted to give a child a ride home. If at closing time an adult family member/guardian of the child cannot be reached, the

Oxford Police will be called to escort the child home or keep the child until parents/guardians can be contacted. Two staff members will remain with the child until the police have arrived. The Children's Librarian will attempt to contact the child's parent/guardian to explain the library policy and why the action was required as a follow-up procedure.