

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

By its nature, the Library is a welcoming public place, and the safety of all patrons is a major concern. Young children left alone in the Library may be subject to threats, temptations or even abuse at the hands of another patron, or they may wander out of the building unnoticed. The Library staff is deeply concerned about the wellbeing of its younger patrons but cannot be responsible for their safety.

Age limit. All children under age eight must be always accompanied by a responsible adult while in the Seabrook Library. The responsible party will always remain with the child unless the child participates in an organized Library activity such as Story Time, in which case the adult must remain in the building during the activity and collect the child immediately after the event.

Responsibility. Children aged eight and over may use the Library unaccompanied unless their behavior dictates otherwise. They are expected to conform to the same rules of behavior that all other patrons do. Parents are legally responsible for their children's behavior even when not present and should be aware that disruptive children will be asked to leave.

Children (or adults) of any age with such mental, physical, or emotional problems that they require constant professional or parental supervision shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver always.

Closing. Under-eight children left at the Library at closing time without a ride home will be directed to the Police Station next door to wait for a ride. The Library staff will allow one phone call to any child for the express purpose of notifying parents/guardians for an immediate ride home. Under no circumstances will any staff member give a child a ride or remain in the building with the child after closing. A minimum of two staff members will be in attendance whenever children are present.

In the event of dangerous weather, power outages, or other emergencies that might necessitate early or sudden closing of the Library, children needing rides or a place to stay will be directed to the Police Station.

Unattended children left in the Library in violation of this policy will be referred to the Police Department.