

# Safe Child Policy

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Children should find the Wareham Free Library to be a comfortable and welcoming place that stimulates their imaginations and invites them to develop a love of books and reading. Children are encouraged to visit the library, and to take advantage of its resources.

This policy is designed to address the concern for the welfare of children, and is not intended to restrict, discourage or frustrate appropriate use of the library.

Children of all ages are welcome in the library. However, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure their appropriate behavior. The library staff is not responsible for the supervision of children left unattended or inadequately supervised by their parents or caregivers.

For the purposes of this policy, an unattended child refers to a child in the library alone, or a child whose parent or caregiver is in the library but is not adequately supervising that child. The latter situation may occur when the adult and child are in separate areas of the building, or when the adult is using library materials or equipment and is not supervising the child.

Children aged seven and under must be accompanied and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.

Children eight and older may use the library unattended, but are subject to the rules and regulations in effect regarding behavior and conduct. Children determined by the staff to be disrupting normal library activities will be given one warning and then will be asked to leave if the behavior persists.

The Wareham Free Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended or inadequately supervised in the library. Under no circumstances will library staff transport any child from the library during or after business hours.