

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Policy Statement

The Montville Township Public Library is the Place to Grow for community members of all ages and backgrounds. It is our hope that children find the library to be a welcoming, enjoyable, and safe place. However, the library is a public place and the staff has many duties to perform in order to help all of our patrons. The staff cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of children, nor can they be responsible for any consequences of caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities. Public Libraries, by their nature, are subject to “stranger danger” and are not necessarily safe for unattended children. We encourage families and youth to use the library, and while doing so, affirm the parents’ and/or caregiver’s responsibility for their child’s safety. The following policy was developed to maintain a safe environment for our children.

Definitions

An **unattended child** is defined as a child without a responsible adult on library premises.

Disruptive behavior is any behavior within the library that infringes on the rights of others using the library and/or is in direct violation of the Library’s Code of Conduct.

Associated Policy

Code of Conduct

Policy

For their own protection, all children must be supervised while on library property and in the library building. Children under (10) must have a responsible caregiver 16 or older on the premises, and children 7 or under must be in sight of a caregiver at all times.

Children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and are subject to the same consequences, including restricted or suspended library privileges. A parent or caregiver may be notified, at the determination of the Library Director or a staff member, if a minor of any age’s behavior in the library violates the Library Code of Conduct. If an **attended** child is disruptive, library staff may address the child and parent/caregiver concerning the behavior. If the behavior remains disruptive, they may be asked to leave the library until the situation resolves.

If a child is found to be unattended in the library at any time or if an unattended child becomes disruptive, the Library may act to resolve the situation. If necessary, library staff may summon the Montville Township Police Department.

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Children between the ages of 10 and 18 can use the Library's telephone to call a caregiver for a ride.

If the Library is closing, at regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or caregiver of a child cannot be located in the building, two staff members will wait with the child for 10 minutes. If after 10 minutes, a parent or caregiver does not pick up the child, the Montville Township Police Department will be called.

Adults may visit the Teen and Children's areas only when accompanied by children, or special needs adults using those departments or retrieving materials for research or checkout.

Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the Library Director.