

CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY POLICY

I. Purpose.

Children are welcome and encouraged to use the Bath Township Public Library at all times. The Library Board adopts the following Children in the Library Policy ("Policy") with regard to children at the Library.

II. Definitions

- A. "Child" means a minor under the age of 18.
- B. "Responsible Caregiver" is an individual who is responsible for monitoring or caring for a child and who must be at least twelve (12) years old.

III. Rules and Regulations.

- A. All patrons, including children, are expected to comply with the Library's policies, including its Patron Behavior Policy. Parents, guardians and responsible caregivers should review and be fully aware of all Library policies governing children, particularly the Internet Use Policy.
- B. Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children regardless of age while in the Library or on Library property.
- C. Library Staff will not be expected to supervise or monitor children's behavior.
- D. Children ages five (5) and under must be within the visual contact of a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times, including during programs and visits to the restroom. Children ages five (5) and under may not be left in the Youth Services Department alone.
- E. Children under the age of nine (9) must be attended by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times. The parent, guardian or responsible caregiver shall remain in the Library at all times.
- F. Children of any age who, because of developmental disability, mental illness, or physical disability, require supervision or personal care shall be attended by a parent guardian or responsible caregiver at all times.
- G. If a child under the age of nine (9) is attending a Library sponsored program on the premises, the parent, a guardian, or responsible caregiver is to remain on the premises for the duration of the program.
- H. Library Staff will not monitor whether children leave the Library building. Staff will not be responsible if unattended children leave the Library premises alone or with

other persons. This includes children nine (9) years or older who may be asked to leave the Library if the child is in violation of Library policy.

I. Unattended children shall be picked up at least ten (10) minutes before closing time. Parents, guardians and responsible caregivers need to be aware of when the Library closes.

J. Children nine (9) years or older must know their telephone number and other contact information if they are unattended at the Library. It is a violation of Library policy not to come immediately and pick up your unattended child if the Library calls.

G. Children nine (9) and older who are alone at the Library must have the contact information for a parent or guardian.

IV. Violations/Enforcement

A. Library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver when:

1. The health or safety of an unattended child is in doubt;
2. A child is frightened while alone at the Library;
3. The behavior of an unattended child violates Library policy.
4. The unattended child has not been met by a parent, legal guardian, custodian or responsible caregiver at closing time. A child is considered unattended at closing time if the child is under the age of fifteen (15) or the child needs assistance procuring transportation.

B. If a parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver cannot be reached within fifteen (15) minutes after closing or fails to arrive within a reasonable time after being contacted, Library staff will contact law enforcement officials to take charge of the situation involving the unattended child. Library employees are not permitted to transport an unattended child or vulnerable adult under any circumstances.

C. If the parent, legal guardian, custodian or caregiver can be reached within fifteen (15) minutes after closing and arrives in a reasonable time, the staff member shall explain the Library's policy and provide a copy of this Policy.

D. Any person violating this Policy shall be subject to the same enforcement and violations provisions contained in the Violations Policy.