

Brookfield Public Library

Unattended Child Policy

Effective Date: 7/28/1993

Revision Dates: 3/16/2001, 1/24/2007, 3/23/2011

Definitions: For the purposes of this policy, a child is anyone under eight years old; a caregiver is any individual thirteen years of age or older who has the authority and responsibility to care for a child by the child's parent or legal guardian.

The best guidance to be offered a child comes from parents. Parents are strongly encouraged to:

- Explore the library with their children;
- Provide clear guidelines and set limits for their children;
- Learn how to evaluate the content of library materials and websites for appropriateness;
- Ask a Librarian for assistance in selecting appropriate materials for families and children;

The Library does not act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents) and Library staff does not have the authority to take responsibility for children. A child must be continually accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or caregiver. The library staff cannot observe all patron contacts made on the premises. To help ensure the safety and comfort of children using the library and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to reading and study, the Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Free Public Library has adopted the following policy:

1. If an unattended child calls attention to himself or is noticed, library staff will attempt to locate the parent / caregiver in the library.
2. If the parent / caregiver cannot be found, the Brookfield police department will be asked to intervene. Under no circumstances will a staff member drive a patron of any age home.