

## **Abington Public Library Unattended Children Policy**

The Unattended Children Policy of the Abington Public Library provides guidelines for caregiver supervision of children in the library.

An unattended child is a person under 13 years of age that is not accompanied by a responsible person. A responsible person is a parent or caregiver given responsibility for a child by an adult who is accountable for the child's action and behavior.

- The Abington Public Library is not responsible for children of any age left unattended at the library.
- The staff is not responsible for the care, supervision and safety of the individual child.
- Children 5 years of age and younger must be attended and supervised by a responsible person.
- Children 5 years of age and younger may not be left unsupervised in the Children's Room except during scheduled library programs which do not require adult participation.
- Children 3 - 5 years of age may attend scheduled library programs during which time a responsible person must stay in the library building and return promptly to the Children's Room at the conclusion of the program.
- Children under the age of 3 must be accompanied by a responsible person at all times, including during scheduled library programs.
- Children's behavior must conform to the library's Code of Conduct Policy.
- Children ages 6 - 8 may be left unattended in the Children's Room for short periods of time or for the duration of a Library sponsored program.
- Children's behavior must conform to the library's Code of Conduct Policy.
- Children ages 9 - 12 may use the library unattended subject to the library's Code of Conduct
- Parents are reminded that the library is a busy public building and that the Abington Public Library is not responsible for the safety of the individual child.

### **Unattended Child at Closing Time of the Library**

- All children must be picked up before the library closes.
- If members of the staff are aware that children are left unattended at closing time, the library staff will attempt to contact parents/guardian. If parents are unavailable, the police will be notified.

Voted by the Board of Library Trustees 12/13/99. Updated 11/03/04, 4/13/09.