

Westport Free Public Library
408 Old County Road
P.O. Box N-157
Westport, Massachusetts 02790



Unattended Children Policy

A current concern is the number of young children left unattended in libraries. The Library is a public building available for the use of all residents of Massachusetts. Because it is a place where children gather, it may attract people whose interest in children is not entirely wholesome. Given this reality, children ten years of age or younger **must** be continuously attended by a parent or caregiver while in the Library.

Children attending programs are supervised by the Library staff only during the scheduled time of the program and they must be signed in for the program.

Parents and caregivers should be familiar with the Library hours of operation and should not leave children before opening or after closing. Also, close attention must be paid to unexpected closings (storms, power outages, etc.). Prior arrangements and contingency plans for **immediate** pick-up should be discussed with the child. The Library staff is **not** responsible for supervising children left alone when the Library is closed, but will make attempts to reach a parent or caregiver for immediate pick-up before the library closes. At closing time, the police department will be notified regarding any child who has been left in this unsafe situation.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees
02/28/2013