August 2023

Unattended Children & Child Safety Policy

1. Purpose Statement

The Lexington Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. Parents, guardians, or assigned caregivers are responsible for the behavior and welfare of their minor children while in the Library. Though library staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for a child's safety and comfort when the child is left unattended.

2. Guidelines

A. In order to provide all patrons with a facility that is safe, pleasant, and conducive to Library use, young children should always be supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver at least 16 years of age.

B. All children ages 8 and under shall always be attended to and adequately supervised by a responsible caregiver of at least 16 years of age, a parent, or a guardian.

C. Parents, legal guardians, or caregivers are responsible for a child's behavior while in the Library or on the Library premises.

D. Maintaining and/or restoring facility conditions is the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or caregiver in any instance involving minor children.

E. All children aged 9 years and above may use the Library independently provided they are able to follow the Code of Conduct Policy.

F. The code of Conduct Policy applies to all patrons regardless of age. All library staff are authorized to follow the policy's consequences as it relates to a child's behavior.

G. The Library reserves the right to contact parents, guardians, or the proper authorities if minors are left unattended, require supervision, or are unable to adhere to the Code of Conduct Policy.

H. Caregivers should be aware of the Library's operating hours and make arrangements to meet and transport children. If a minor child is left at the Library after closing, and no one can be contacted to provide transportation, the staff will call the Lexington Police Department for assistance. Staff will NOT, under any circumstance, provide transportation to any child.