

5.4 Child Safety

The Schenectady County Public Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children. All visitors are subject to the rules of behavior found in the Library's Code of Conduct. As a public facility, the library takes reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of patrons while they are using the Library but cannot guarantee the safety of unattended and unsupervised children. Library staff are not responsible for the care and supervision of visitors of any age. In accordance with the Library Confidentiality and Privacy policy, the library does not routinely disclose information about library use including the presence or absence of visitors of any age. No child in need of supervision may be left unattended in the Library.

Indicators that a child may not be in need of supervision:

- They understand and follow the Library's Code of Conduct
- They can care for themselves without assistance
- They can provide library staff with their full name and parent or caregiver's phone number upon request
- They refrain from unreasonably disrupting other library users or staff members

If at any time a child in need of supervision is left unattended in the Library, the following will occur:

- Staff will try to locate the parent or caregiver in the library and make sure they are able to supervise the child.
- If it is determined that the child is in the library without a caregiver, a staff member will try to contact the parent/caregiver and request that they pick up the child.
- The police will be called to assume responsibility if the library is unsuccessful in reaching the parent/caregiver. Library employees are state mandated reporters and required to report suspected child neglect, abuse or maltreatment.

When visiting the library without a parent/caregiver, children should have definite arrangements to be picked up from the library at closing time or in case of emergency. If any minor child is left unattended at closing, staff will first call a parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive within 30 minutes of closing, the police will be called to assume responsibility. Two library staff members will stay with the child inside the library until the parent/caregiver or police arrive.