

## Safe Child Policy

The library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all our patrons. Children of all ages are welcome in the library. However, the responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library and on library property rests with the parents, guardians, caregivers, or teachers and not with library staff. The Holbrook Public Library staff, Board of Library Trustees, and Town of Holbrook assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended at the library. An unattended child is a child of any age who is unaccompanied by a responsible guardian.

Parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers may not leave young children alone or in the care of older children or teenagers who are unable or unwilling to provide supervision. Supervising adults must be close at hand.

Children, as expected of all other patrons, must follow the rules concerning behavior and conduct in order to maintain a comfortable atmosphere for all - see Library Use Policy and Behavior Guidelines. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and all children and their adults need to respect and be aware of library hours.

Children determined by the staff to be disrupting normal library activities will be given one warning and then will be asked to leave if the behavior persists. If a supervising adult cannot be located in the building, the Holbrook Police Department will be called to take responsibility of the child / children.

If the library is closing at a regular time or in an emergency situation and a supervising adult cannot be located in the building, the Holbrook Police Department will be called to take responsibility of the child / children.

The library is not responsible for children outside the building.

As in all public places, "stranger danger" is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate supervising adult.

The Library is not responsible for any consequences of parents, guardians, caregivers, or teachers forfeiting their responsibilities.

Approved by the Holbrook Board of Library Trustees on Tuesday, May 16, 2023