

EASTTOWN LIBRARY

POLICY AREA: SECURITY & EMERGENCIES

POLICY NAME: UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

ADOPTED: 6/17/1992

REVISED: 1/26/2022

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The library cares about the safety and welfare of children and establishes this policy for the protection and well-being of children and to prevent disruptive behavior.

Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the Easttown Library rests with the parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. Library staff does not provide child care, supervise unattended children, or assume responsibility for the safety of children.

Disruptive behavior is behavior that represents physical danger to the child or others, or behavior that unreasonably interferes with other library customers or staff as identified in the library's Behavior Policy.

While on library premises, children under the age of eleven (11) must be under the direct supervision and control of a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver at all times. For the purposes of this policy, the parent, guardian or responsible caregiver must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.

It is not the role of library staff to continually assess the age of customers, however, if an unattended child is found within the Library, Library staff shall attempt to locate a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver within the library. If a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver cannot be located within the library, library staff will attempt to contact a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. If a parent, guardian or caregiver cannot be contacted, library staff will determine the appropriate means to return the child to the parent, guardian or caregiver, including possibly calling the police.

Truancy: As library staff does not act *in loco parentis*, staff members are not required to report suspected trancies. However, the library will try to cooperate with schools, families, and law enforcement agencies to uphold laws regarding compulsory school attendance.