

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

Children under the age of 8 should never be left unattended in the library. If a child under the age of 8 is found unattended while the library is open, library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver in the library. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found in a reasonable amount of time with a reasonable amount of effort, law enforcement officials will be called, and the child will be placed in their care.

If a child age 8 through 12 has not been picked up by a parent/caregiver within 10 minutes of closing, law enforcement officials will be called, and the child will be placed in their care.

If a child age 8 through 12 is found unattended when the library is open and the child has become ill or frightened, has become disruptive and will not respond to verbal warnings from library staff, is upset because of weather conditions, long hours out of contact with the parent/caregiver, or other special circumstances, law enforcement officials may be called, and the child may be placed in their care.

After a child has been placed in the care of law enforcement personnel, the staff will leave notes about the child's whereabouts at the front desk and on the front door of the library.

Under no circumstances will a staff member give a child a ride home, take a child outside the building, or remain in the building alone with an unattended child.

Parents who disregard library policy regarding this matter may be reported to the appropriate social services agency and may lose all library privileges.