

RIVERHEAD FREE LIBRARY GENERAL POLICIES

Subject: Unattended Children

Purpose: To inform patrons of the Library's policy on unaccompanied children.

The Riverhead Free Library welcomes all children and their families to use its facilities, resources and services. To guarantee the safety and well-being of all children in the library, the following policy regarding the use of the library by children and their families is set in place.

Children below the age of 10 must be accompanied at all times by a parent/guardian or other responsible person age 14 or older. Parents and caregivers are responsible to actively watch their children for their safety, behavior and comfort. Children attending programs are supervised by the staff only during the scheduled time of the program. The parent/guardian or caregiver must remain in the library and immediately join the child at the end of the program.

Children 10 and older, may use the library unattended for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior. Children, like all other library users are required to abide by the "Library Rules of Behavior" policy. Children must have the telephone numbers of a parent/guardian or caregiver who can be contacted to pick up the child in case of an emergency. If a child's behavior violates the "Library Rules of Behavior", staff and/or security will intervene if necessary.

Parents and caregivers must be aware of the library's opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their child. If the child is unaccompanied in the library at closing time, every effort will be made to assist the child in calling his/her parent or caregiver. In the event a parent or caregiver cannot be reached, library staff will wait with the child for ten minutes before calling the police for assistance.

Occasionally the Library may need to close without advance notice as a result of an emergency. Families must discuss a plan of action for children to take in the event of an unexpected Library closure.