



EAST BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333

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Virginia K. Johnson, *Director of Library Services*

Unattended Child Policy

The East Bridgewater Public Library welcomes children of all ages and strives to create a warm, inviting learning environment. The Library offers many programs and services that encourage children to develop a love of books and reading. However, the Library is a public building, and the well-being of young children left alone at the Library is a serious concern. Young children are not safe when left unattended in a library or any other public place. The responsibility for children using the Library rests with the child's parent/guardian or a designated adult caregiver.

The safety and well-being of every child is very important and to ensure their protection, the East Bridgewater Public Library has adopted the following policy.

1. Children 7 years old and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent /guardian or designated caregiver at all times in the Children's Room and throughout the Library, including Library programming.
2. Parents/caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. If a child's conduct interferes with another patrons' ability to use the Library in violation of posted behavioral policies, the child and his/her parent/caregiver will be asked to leave the building.
3. Children old enough to use the Library alone should be familiar with Library policies and hours of service. If their conduct interferes with another patron's ability to use the Library in violation of posted behavioral policies, they will be asked to leave the building. Children should know how to reach a parent or caregiver during their visit.
4. The Library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the Library is closing, but will make an effort to contact a parent/guardian or adult caregiver. If arrangements cannot be made for immediate pick up, the East Bridgewater Police Department will be contacted.

Voted by the Board of Library Trustees 10 January 2006

Amended by the Board of Library Trustees 12 July 2011

Revised and voted by the Board of Library Trustees 27 November 2017