

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

The Stamford Community Library welcomes and encourages children to visit the library, use library resources and services, and attend library programs. Staff members are available to help and support children. However, the library is not able to provide short or long-term child care, or be responsible for unattended children.

Accordingly, all children under 8 years of age must be accompanied and directly supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver who assumes full responsibility for the child's safety and behavior while in the library. "Directly supervised" means the child and caregiver must be able to observe one another at all times, except when a child is participating in a library program. Some library programs may require the parent/guardian to attend along with their child. If a child under 8 years of age appears to be unattended or unsupervised, library staff will attempt to make contact with the parent/guardian or caregiver, advising them of this policy and asking them to join the child at the library.

Children 8 years of age and older are welcome to use the library unattended as long as their behavior is respectful of the library staff, other patrons, and library materials. As with adults, children who fail to behave appropriately may be asked to leave the library. Even in their absence, parents are responsible for the actions and safety of their minor children. At closing time, if parents, guardians, and/or caregivers cannot be reached, or are unresponsive, the library will contact the police.

Approved December 12, 2024