

Kensington Public Library Safe Child Policy

The Kensington Public Library welcomes children and teens and encourages them to visit the library, attend programs and make full use of the library's resources. The library strives to provide a safe and appropriate environment for visitors of all ages. The library is a public building, however, with staff trained to provide public library services. The library is not equipped, nor is it the library's role, to provide childcare. To ensure the safety and well-being of the children and to maintain an atmosphere of constructive library use, the Library Trustees have adopted the following policies:

- Responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children always using the library rests with the child's parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. Though library staff members will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when using the library.
- All children under nine (9) years of age shall, always, be attended and adequately supervised by the child's parent, guardian or responsible caregiver unless permitted by the librarian on duty. A person under the age of twelve (12) will not be deemed a responsible caregiver, including siblings.
- Children aged nine (9) or older may use the library unaccompanied by an adult, provided proper behavior is maintained and provided that both the child and the library know how and where to contact a parent or guardian in case of an emergency. Inappropriate behavior includes (but is not limited to) misuse of library property and actions that deliberately disturb others or prevent the legitimate use of the library and its resources. Staff may, as needed:
 - a. Notify parents, guardians or responsible caregivers whose children need additional supervision.
 - b. Isolate the child until parent/guardian shows up (i.e., remove from other patrons);
 - c. If library staff is unable to manage an out-of-control child, contact Kensington Police Department and request assistance to help ensure safety of child and/or other patrons.
- If an unattended child becomes ill or injured and the child's parent, guardian or responsible caregiver cannot be contacted immediately, police and/or rescue personnel will be called.
- Parents, guardians, and responsible caregivers are advised to prevent their children from playing outside on the library grounds. Library staff cannot supervise children outside of the library building.
- Young children accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible caregiver may sign up to use a computer for educational and recreational purposes. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver, not the library staff, to insure appropriate use of online terminals and other electronic resources by young children. The library does not use filtering software.
- Adults should be aware of the library closing time. Unattended children at the library must be picked up no later than five minutes before closing time. Parents/guardians must supply emergency contact information if a child is left

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unattended. If the child is not picked up at closing time, the library staff must notify them. If no contact can be made, or if a ride has not arrived within 15 minutes after closing, the police will be called to supervise the child until the adult arrives. Library employees are not permitted to transport children to another location.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees on October 28, 2021