

Youth Services Safety & Behavior Policy

The staff of the Eastham Public Library is concerned about the safety and well being of our young patrons. We welcome all children and offer many programs to encourage lifelong appreciation of books and other resources. As the Library is a public building available to anyone, Library staff does not and will not take over the parental responsibility for children when they come into the library. Due to the many responsibilities of the library staff, monitoring each child's behavior and location is not possible.

Therefore, the following policy has been established:

1. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or responsible caregiver. A parent or caregiver will be called to pick up an unaccompanied child.
2. Children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by an adult when using the elevator.
3. Children age 10 or older may be left unattended for the period of time needed to select materials, complete a homework assignment, attend a program, or utilize other library services. Children should not be left for an extended period of time. Children left unattended should be aware of the closing time of the building, and should have caretaker's contact information available.
4. With safety in mind, children should remain inside the building while awaiting transportation to avoid the hazards of the parking lot.
5. Parent/caregiver will be called if a child is left unattended after the library closes. If the parent/caregiver is unavailable, the Eastham Police Department will be called.
6. It is the policy of the Library that staff members will not transport children from the library to any other location, except in cases of extreme emergency.
7. Staff may plan field trips using approved town procedures.

Approved by Board of Library Trustees on August 27, 2016.

8. Disruptive behavior including shouting, running, pushing, or rowdy activities is not tolerated. If unaccompanied, a parent/caretaker will be called to pick up disruptive child/children. If the parent/caregiver is unavailable, the Eastham Police Department will be called.

9. The Children's and Teen area are reserved for use by youth, their parents or caregivers, and patrons using these collections. Adults and teens unaccompanied by a child or teen may enter the Children's and Teen area to obtain books or other materials but extended browsing by unaccompanied adults is not encouraged, and the library staff may request them to leave these areas.

Approved by the Trustees of the Eastham Public Library on
August 27, 2016

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