

Child Supervision Policy

The Sutton Free Public Library strives to provide resources and programs to encourage children of all ages to visit and to ensure that they find the library a warm and inviting place. We hope that through their visits, children will develop a lifelong love of books, reading and libraries which will develop a strong foundation for learning and embellish your child's education.

The library staff tries to do everything in their power to insure the safety of children in the library; however, their duties as providers of library services to the entire community prevent them from being able to supervise individual children left in the library facility.

Therefore, when children are using the library, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians, not the library staff, to supervise their children. Parents may designate a responsible person (over the age of 16) to act as their representative for a child in the library.

Supervision

“Supervise” means that a parent or responsible parent's representative is with the child in the library and is ensuring

1. That children act in accordance with library rules.
2. That children's behavior does not present a safety hazard to themselves, other users, or library property.
3. That children's behavior does not interfere with the use of the library by others.

Children left unattended are vulnerable and may become frightened or anxious. If left unsupervised for an extended period of time, they can become restless and bored, disturbing the enjoyment of the library for others. We would like to prevent this for the benefit of all our users.

Age Guidelines

The following age guidelines have been established to ensure that children are safe and cared for while in the library:

Children five and under: a parent or parent's representative must remain with the child at all times.

Children ages six through eight: a parent or parent's representative must remain in the building or the duration of the child's visit.

Children ages nine through twelve are welcome to use the library unattended, but should not be left alone for more than two hours.

Children attending library-sponsored programs are supervised by the library staff and for the purposes of this policy are considered to be supervised for the duration of the program.

Suggestions for Parents

Talk to your children about the library and visit the library often.

Acquaint your children with areas and materials that will interest them

Introduce your children to the library staff and let the child know that the staff is here to help them.

Make sure you have your children participate in our programs.

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees January 20, 2009