

**UNATTENDED CHILDREN**  
**(6/20/05), (Updated 6/17/13, 12/17/18)**

The Florham Park Public Library welcomes members of all ages to use its facilities, services and resources. We encourage families and youth to use libraries and, while doing so, also affirm that the responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Parents and caregivers must be advised that libraries are public places. In libraries, as in all public places, “stranger danger” is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving the library with persons who are not appropriate caregivers.

An unattended child is a child of any age who is apparently unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver. Children who are unable or unwilling to care for themselves may not be left alone in the library, and must have adequate supervision from a caregiver. The library cannot be responsible for any consequences of caregivers forfeiting their responsibilities. The Florham Park Public Library recommends that a parent/guardian or caregiver accompany any child under the age of ten.

Any child using the library must abide by the “Rules of Conduct for Libraries” (see 10.0). A child who violates the Rules of Conduct will be informed of the rules by a staff member. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave the library.

If an unattended child of any age would be placed in a “vulnerable position”, i.e. his/her safety or well-being would be endangered if he/she would be sent out of the building, the staff will make an effort to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver to pick up the child. Examples of a “vulnerable position” may include the child being too young to be on his or her own, the child being left alone in the dark or serious inclement weather, or being alone outside the facility after business hours. If, after a reasonable search is conducted, the child’s parent/guardian or caregiver cannot be located, the Florham Park Police Department will be called to assist in locating them. The library staff may not take responsibility for the care of any child. Under no circumstances should a staff member take the child out of the building or provide transportation.

The Library is not responsible for a minor’s selection of library material. The Library believes it is the right and responsibility of a parent or guardian to determine what is appropriate for his or her own child. Therefore, parents are encouraged to accompany their child to select material or review the child’s selection.