UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The library cares about the safety and welfare of children and establishes this policy for the protection and well-being of children and to prevent disruptive behavior. Working together we better ensure a safe setting for patrons of all ages.

BEHAVIOR MONITORING

The library and its staff are dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the library, use library collections and services, and attend library programs. Library staff are available to assist and support children with their use of library resources. However, responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with their parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. The library cannot assume custodial responsibility for children. Library staff are not equipped, nor is it their role, to provide childcare.

COLLECTION ACCESS

Library staff members do not restrict a child's access to library collections. Library users of all ages are free to explore the collection and check out materials. Parents or guardians are expected to monitor their children's library use, including their library collections access.

Parents or guardians are legally responsible for the fines/fees for children under 18 years of age.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

Children under the age of 10 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (at least 16 years of age) who remains within sight and conversation distance of the child.

Children 10 and older, who are able to follow the Library's Rules of Conduct Policy and do not require supervision due to special needs, may use the library unattended.

If a child under 10 years old is found unattended, library staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver in the library. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found using reasonable measures within a reasonable amount of time, staff will call Lansdale Police and leave the child in care of an officer at the police department.

If a child under 16 years old remains on library property after closing time, library staff may call Lansdale Police to intervene. The library staff will not provide transportation to children under any circumstance.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, March 5, 2024