Unattended Children Policy

The Beardsley Library provides a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the library, attend programs, and use the library's collection and computers. Parents and caregivers should be mindful that the library is a public building open to all, and that unattended children may be vulnerable. This policy provides guidelines for the supervision and behavior of children while at the library; its goal is to provide a safe, orderly, and pleasant environment for all.

1. In accordance with Connecticut state law, 53-21 a-c, any child under the age of 12 should have a responsible family member or caregiver in the building while the child is using the library.

   "Sec. 53-21a. Leaving child unsupervised in place of public accommodation or motor vehicle. (a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor."

2. It is never the function of the library's staff or volunteers to provide supervision or care for unaccompanied children.
3. Parents, guardians, or caregivers must accompany and directly supervise children under the age of 12 during all programs hosted by the Beardsley Library.
4. Children, like all library patrons, are required to respect library property and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library. Children who are not using the library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention or intervention, may be asked to leave. The parents or guardians of these children may be notified, and if necessary, asked to stay with their children while visiting the library.
5. Individuals must be at least 18 years of age to accompany or supervise a child under the age of 12 while using the library. The supervising individual must remain with the child and provide direct supervision at all times during the library visit.

Failure to comply with these rules may result in the suspension or revocation of library privileges and, when appropriate, involvement of local law enforcement.

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