



POLICIES OF THE CLIFTON PARK-HALFMOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY 3.8

Revised: 12/1/98

Revised: 9/19/05

UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Need for this Policy:

Nationwide, a number of families are using libraries as child care centers for their unattended children with increasing frequency. A policy to deal with this practice is needed.

Policy:

Children are welcome at the Library. However, the Library is not a daycare or child care center, and should not be treated as such.

Children younger than ten (10) years of age must be accompanied while at the Library by a parent or guardian, except while they are in attendance at a supervised, age appropriate library program. Children younger than ten (10) left at such programs must be picked up by a parent or guardian within 10 minutes of the program's end.

Children of any age are not welcome in the Library if they are idle, unwell or disruptive.

Children between ten (10) and 14 shall not be left unattended in the Library for more than three hours and must be picked up or leave the premises by normal closing hours.

Responsibilities:

Children are the responsibility of their parents or guardians, not of the Library. The Library takes no responsibility for the safety or welfare of children left unattended at the Library in violation of this policy.

If a child is left at the Library in violation of this policy, the Library will call the parent or guardian to pick up the child. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, and/or cannot pick up the child within 30 minutes of such call, local authorities will be called and apprised of the situation.

Under no circumstances will Library staff arrange for or transport the child off the Library premises.

Approved: 10/15/88