

Child Safety Policy

Approved December 2001

Revised August 2003, June 2004, July 2007, July 2008

The Groton Public Library welcomes children and encourages their frequent use of the library's resources. The Library Trustees and Staff attempt to provide a safe environment for children to enjoy the library's resources, and to participate in the library's programs.

Parents are reminded, however, that they or their designated caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of the children in their care while visiting the library.

- Children under nine (9) years old may not be left unattended in the library. A child is considered unattended if he/she is not accompanied by a designated caregiver at least twelve (12) years old
- Children at least nine (9) years old may be left unattended at the discretion of a parent/caregiver, but should not be left for more than one hour.
- For safety reasons, children under nine (9) years old should be accompanied by a parent/caregiver on the elevator.

Children's Programs/Events:

For those programs where space is limited, preference is given to Groton residents. Non-residents are welcome if space allows.

When attending children's programs at the library:

- A child five (5) years old or younger must be accompanied at all times by the parent/caregiver with the exception of the storytimes specifically presented for three to five year old children.
- Children who are six (6) through eight (8) years old may attend an age appropriate program unaccompanied by the parent/caregiver, but the caregiver must stay in the library during the program and pick up the child promptly at the conclusion of the program.
- All program registrations for children under the age of twelve (12) must include contact information for a parent or caregiver when a child is unaccompanied at the program.

Library staff are not responsible for the safety of unattended children once a program has ended.

- Computers are available to all patrons. However, computer terminals in the library are not intended for use by children under six (6) years old. It is the responsibility of a parent or caregiver to ensure appropriate use of computers by children. Pounding on keyboards and other potentially damaging activities are not permitted. Children under six (6) years old may use a computer only under the direct supervision of a parent or caregiver.

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- Children should dress appropriately in the library, and footwear must be worn at all times.

The parent/caregiver is responsible for the child's behavior in the library, at library programs and on the library grounds. To insure the safety and enjoyment of all, running, shouting, pushing or other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If the librarian determines that a child's behavior is inappropriate, he/she will speak to the caregiver. If no caregiver is present, the child will be asked to cease the disruptive behavior. If the disruptive behavior continues, the staff member will attempt to contact the parent/caregiver. Should the parent/caregiver not be available, the child may be asked to leave the library or the library program.