



The Library Company of Burlington
23 West Union Street
Burlington, NJ 08016
(609) 386-1273

CHILDREN AT THE LIBRARY

The Library Company of Burlington provides materials and services to meet the needs of our library customers. We take special pride in providing a wide range of materials and services for children. However, it is beyond the scope of our resources to provide supervision for children left unattended by adults or caregivers. The following policy has been made to ensure the safety of young children while in the library.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Children under 10 years of age should have an adult or caregiver within sight and sound range at all times.
- Caregivers must be at least 16 years of age. They do not need to be related to the child.
- The adult/caregiver is responsible for the actions of the children in their care. Library staff cannot take responsibility for the care of any child.
- An adult caregiver cannot leave a child unsupervised anywhere in the library while the caregiver uses the computers.
- Children ages 12 to 15 should not be left unattended in the library for extended periods of time. The allowable length of time will be determined by a staff member and will depend on the age and conduct of the child.
- All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- If a child is not picked up by closing, staff will make every effort to contact the child's parents. The Person-in-Charge and another staff member will wait no more than 15 minutes after closing for the child to be picked up. When the parent/caregiver arrives, explain the library policy and hours, and give them a copy of the parent letter. 5. If the child is not picked up within 15 minutes after closing, call the local police non-emergency number. Under no circumstances will library staff transport a child home.
- Staff are empowered to administer this policy as needed, including when the child's safety is at risk or when the child is behaving in a disruptive manner.

BEHAVIOR IN THE LIBRARY

All library customers are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in the library. When a library staff member determines that a child is behaving inappropriately in the library, the child and accompanying adult/caregiver will be advised of this policy and informed of the library's rules of customer conduct. Examples of disruptive and unsafe behaviors include loud talking, laughter, crying, screaming, using media without earphones, numerous calls and/or loud talking on cell phones, recurring pages on a beeper, running, jumping, playing games (e.g., hide and seek, etc.) throwing things, pushing and shoving which may disturb other customers, cause injury to customers or staff or damage library property. If inappropriate behavior continues, staff have the authority to ask the child and accompanying adult/caregiver to leave the library.