

D. A. Hurd Library 41 High St. North Berwick, ME 03906 (207) 676-2215 https://www.dahurdlibrary.org

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## Children's Behavior Policy & Supervision Guidelines

The D. A. Hurd library welcomes young children to use its facility, collection, and services. We endeavor to maintain a safe, secure, and comfortable environment for children and their parents/caregivers so they may have a positive experience when visiting the library.

The safety of all children who use the library premises is a priority. It is never safe to leave young children unattended in a public place.

Library staff do not take the place of a parent, act as babysitters\*, or assume responsibility for unsupervised children. Staff members have many duties to perform in service of patrons and cannot oversee the whereabouts or safety of unattended children

\*Exceptions are made during special announced events such as Drop-In Childcare for parent-teacher conferences.

Children ages nine and older may use the library unsupervised and are subject to the same rules and regulations governing behaviors and use of the facilities as adults.

Children who are ages eight and younger shall be actively supervised at all times by a parent/caregiver who is 13-years old or older. Parents/caregivers are required to remain in the same location as their child(ren) and to actively engage with and monitor their child(ren) on library premises, unless alternative supervision arrangements have been made in advance.

If staff are concerned about an unattended child, we will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver. If a responsible adult cannot be located within 30 minutes, Library staff will contact the North Berwick Police Department for assistance. Library staff will remain with the child until a responsible individual arrives.

Approved by the D.A. Hurd Library Board of Trustees November 14. 2024