



Holderness Free Library

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Holderness, NH 03245
603-968-7066

www.holdernessfreelibrary.org

Unattended Children Policy

The Holderness Library welcomes children to visit the library and encourages them to read, use our computers, to attend programs and to make full use of the library resources. Although staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children using the library, our facilities are not designed or licensed to provide childcare or emergency care. Any public place may be dangerous for a child who is unattended by a responsible adult or caregiver.

The library reminds parents to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users. Children should be supervised at all times and taught that the materials in the library must be respected and treated with care. With these considerations in mind, the following rules apply:

1. Children 10 years old and younger in the library must be accompanied by a responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older. Children aged 10 or younger may not be left unattended in the library for any amount of time. The responsible caregiver must have contact information for an adult who is legally responsible for the child.
2. Children 5 years old and younger must be directly supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver aged 16 or older in all rooms of the library, including the Children's Room.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children of all ages in the library, whether or not the parent or guardian is present
4. At the discretion of the library staff, a child older than age 10 may be left unattended in the library for a reasonable period of time needed to select materials, work on a homework assignment or attend a library program. The child must know how to reach the parent/guardian or responsible caregiver (aged 16 or older) should a need arise. Children should not be left for more than 2 hours.
5. When older children are visiting the library by themselves, the adult responsible for the child will be contacted if the child's behavior is inappropriate for the library and guidance from the staff has been ignored. If the adult cannot be reached and the behavior is deemed dangerous or unacceptably disruptive, the police will be notified.

6. Children must be picked up no later than five minutes before closing time. Children left unattended at closing time will have the opportunity to contact an adult. If no contact can be made, or if a ride has not arrived within 10 minutes of closing, the police will be called to supervise the child until the adult arrives.
7. Library employees are not permitted to transport children to another location.
8. If disruptive behavior by a child is not being addressed by the parent or guardian, the Library Director or library employee may ask that the child be removed from the library. The library employee will provide a copy of this policy to the parent/guardian. A second violation would result in the loss of use of library facilities and property. Patrons whose privileges have been suspended have the right to request a review by the Library Board of Trustees.

Revised by the Holderness Free Library Board of Trustees on 9/3/13