



Holderness Free Library

866 Route 3 P.O. Box L
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 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.

The library reminds parents and guardians 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.
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. If disruptive behavior by a child is not 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 may provide a copy of this policy to the parent/guardian. A second violation may 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.
7. Children must be picked up no later than fifteen 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 five minutes of closing, the police will be called to supervise the child until the adult arrives.
8. When possible, two staff members will wait with the child until the parent, guardian, or police arrive. The staff member(s) will wait outside in a public area. In the case of inclement weather, the staff member(s) will wait with the child inside the library in an area that has continuous video surveillance until the parent, guardian, or police arrive.
9. Library employees are not permitted to transport children to another location.