

## Children Using the Library

The library and its staff are dedicated to providing a welcoming environment that encourages children to visit the library, use library collections and services, and attend library programs. Library staff are available to assist and support children with their use of library resources. However, responsibility for the welfare and the behavior of children using the library rests with their parent, guardian or responsible caregiver. The library cannot assume custodial responsibility for children.

Children under 18 years of age will be issued a library card with the signature and identification of a parent or legal guardian. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to participate in and monitor their child's library use. Library staff members do not restrict a child's access to library collections. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for the fines/fees for children under 18 years of age.

The library cares about the safety and welfare of children and establishes this policy for the protection and well-being of children and to prevent disruptive behavior.

The library is a public building with staff trained to provide public library services. The library staff is not equipped, nor is it the role of the library, to provide childcare. We encourage parent/guardian cooperation and involvement regarding the above policy. Working together we better ensure a safe setting for patrons of all ages.

1. Children under the age of 10 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (at least 16 years of age) who remains within sight and conversation distance of the child.
2. Children 10 and older, who are able to follow the Library's Patron Code of Conduct Policy and do not require supervision due to special needs, may use the library unattended.
3. Unattended Child Policy – If a child under 10 years old is found unattended, library staff will attempt to locate the parent or caregiver in the library. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found using reasonable measures within a reasonable amount of time, staff will call Upper Merion Police and leave the child in care of an officer at the police department
4. Closing Time Policy – An attempt to contact the parent/guardian of an unattended child (under the age of 16) will be made if the child has not been picked up within fifteen minutes of closing time. If no contact can be made, the library staff will call Upper Merion Police and leave the child in care of an officer at the police department. The library staff will not provide transportation to children under any circumstance.