

## **Abington Public Library Unattended Children Policy**

The Unattended Children Policy of the Abington Public Library provides guidelines for caregiver supervision of children in the library.

An unattended child is a person under 13 years of age that is not accompanied by a responsible person. A responsible person is a parent or caregiver (16 years of age or older) given responsibility for a child by an adult who is accountable for the child's action and behavior.

- The Abington Public Library is not responsible for children of any age left unattended at the library.
- The staff is not responsible for the care, supervision and safety of the individual child.
- Children 5 years of age and younger must be attended and supervised by a responsible person.
- Children 5 years of age and younger may not be left unsupervised in the Children's Room except during scheduled library programs which do not require adult participation.
- Children 3 - 5 years of age may attend scheduled library programs during which time a responsible person must stay in the library building and return promptly to the Children's Room at the conclusion of the program.
- Children under the age of 3 must be accompanied by a responsible person at all times, including during scheduled library programs.
- Children's behavior must conform to the library's Code of Conduct Policy.
- Children ages 6 – 10 may be left unattended in the Children's Room for short periods of time or for the duration of a Library sponsored program. A parent/caregiver must remain in the Library.
- Children's behavior must conform to the library's Code of Conduct Policy.
- Children ages 11 - 12 may use the library unattended for short periods of time, subject to the library's Code of Conduct.
- Parents are reminded that the library is a busy public building and that the Abington Public Library is not responsible for the safety of the individual child.

### **Unattended Child at Closing Time of the Library**

- All children must be picked up before the library closes.
- If members of the staff are aware that children are left unattended as preparations begin for closing, the library staff will attempt to contact parents/guardian. If parents are unavailable the police will be notified.