



Unattended Children Policy

The New Hartford Public Library is a community facility, for use by persons of all ages. However, it is also a public building. For the general welfare of all persons using the library as well as the safety of children, the following standards are being established:

Parents, not library staff, are responsible for children's behavior in the library. Children deemed out of control or disruptive to patrons or library staff will be asked to leave.

It is not the library's function to offer childcare. The library will contact the New Hartford police if underage children are left unattended in the library.

All children in grade 2 or younger shall at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person (e.g. an adult or mature adolescent age 16 or older). When using the computers in the Children's Room, children in grade 2 and younger must, at all times, have an adult sitting with them.

Children in grades 3 through 5 may use the Children's Room when unaccompanied, provided that a responsible person, age 14 or older, remains in the library building with them.

Under no circumstances will a child be allowed to remain in the building after closing. The library will contact the NewHartford police if a child, in grade 5 or less, is not picked up by a parent or guardian at the time of closing. Two staff members will be with the child until the police arrive.

Approved: November 15, 2001 - as Policy on Unattended Children

Revised: March 19, 2014 - as Unattended Children Policy