

NEW BEDFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY ON UNATTENDED CHILDREN

The safety and well-being of young children left unattended at the library is of serious concern to this library. Young children left alone may become frightened, anxious, bored, restless, or disruptive. Library employees have many public duties and cannot serve as babysitters. We ask for your cooperation in making the library a safe and happy place. The following rules have been adopted for children accessing the New Bedford Free Public Library:

- Parents are responsible for the acts of their children of any age while in the Library.
- Parents or guardians may not leave children under age ten (10) unattended in the children's room when no program is being offered or in any other part of the Library at any time. Parents will be notified if their children are left unattended and require supervision.
- Disruptive children over the age of 9 will be asked to leave the library after receiving one verbal warning. If they become abusive or refuse to leave, the police will be called.
- Children need to be picked up before closing. If no guardian is present, the Library staff will attempt to reach the parents or guardian. At closing the New Bedford Police Department will be called.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees

May 26, 2015