



## Policy For Children In The Library

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The Avon-Washington Township Public Library encourages parents/caregivers to bring children to the library. The library dedicates a significant portion of its budget towards materials and programs specifically for children.

To ensure that library experiences are equally enjoyable for the children, parents/caregivers and staff members, the following guidelines are adopted as part of the library's governing policies.

- Parents/caregivers of children participating in library programming are requested to pick up their children at the programming room door. Please advise staff if your child is leaving with another adult.
- The library requests that parents/caregivers supervising a group of children control the behavior of every child in the group during their visit.
- Please assist young, pre-reading children in using computers correctly. It is the parents/caregiver's responsibility to keep toddlers from damaging expensive library equipment.
- Some areas of the library are primarily intended for adult use. Areas such as the reference and periodical areas are certainly not off-limits to children but we do request close and direct supervision in these areas.
- While the Board of Trustees and staff of the Avon-Washington Township Public Library strive to provide a safe environment for all patrons, a public building cannot be considered a danger-free area for crawling babies or toddlers. To avoid injury, the library requests that children under the age of three be in close proximity and within direct sight of an adult responsible for their safety.
- All children must be supervised. Children under the age of 10 must have a responsible caregiver age 16 or older on the premises and children 5 or under must be accompanied at all times.
- If an unattended child is being disruptive, is habitually left alone for long periods of time, or it is determined the child is at risk of coming to harm (as in the case of a child being left when the library is closing), staff may contact appropriate law enforcement or child protection services to take custody of the child. In the case of a child left unattended at closing time, staff will attempt to contact the child's parent/caregiver. If staff is unable to contact the parent/caregiver after 10 minutes past regularly posted closing time, the Avon Police Department will be contacted at their non-emergency number, 839-8700. If staff is able to speak with the parent/caregiver, they will advise the parent/caregiver that the library is closed and the child must be picked up within ten minutes. The parent/caregiver will also be warned that if the child is not picked up within that time period, the library staff will contact the Avon Police Department.
- The library is a very busy public facility that can, as with all public places, present a hazard for unattended children. The Board of Trustees and staff of the Avon-Washington Township Public Library request that parents/caregivers take responsibility for monitoring the activities and controlling the behavior of their children.



**Avon-Washington Twp. Public Library**  
**UNATTENDED CHILDREN GUIDELINES**

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The Avon-Washington Township Public Library welcomes patrons of all ages to use its facilities. However, the library and its staff cannot be responsible for the supervision of children using the facilities.

Children under the age of 10 must have a responsible caregiver age 16 or older on the premises and children age 5 and under must be accompanied at all times.

If a child 10 or under appears to be without the above mentioned supervision, a search of the building will be conducted. If the parent or guardian is not located, the police will be called.

Children 15 and under are expected to be picked up at closing time. If a child is still here after closing and the parent cannot be reached, the police will be called.

Staff members are not permitted to drive children home.