



Safe Child Policy

The Dover Free Public Library welcomes children of all ages to utilize our materials and services. Our goal is to provide a safe atmosphere where children and adults feel welcome in the library.

The safety of children left alone in the Library is a serious concern of the library trustees and staff. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent/caregiver, and not with the library staff. A caregiver is any individual, at least 15 years of age, who is responsible for the child. Any child up to age 11 must be under direct supervision (within sight) of the caregiver at all times.

For children attending a library program, if the child is under the age of 6, a caregiver must remain with the child. For children 6 years and older attending a library program, the caregiver must remain in the library building.

A child of any age who has a medical condition or additional need that requires substantial monitoring must not be left alone in the library. A responsible caregiver must be in attendance in the same area of the library as the child and must maintain an awareness of the child's location and activity.

Children ages 12 and older may use the library unattended provided that they comply with all the Library rules and the Patron Code of Conduct. If children do not comply with library rules and the Patron Code of Conduct, they will be subject to the same discipline schedule for any patron behaving inappropriately. If the offense requires the child to be removed from the building, the parent/guardian will be notified in writing by the library director.

Adults are allowed in the Youth Room only if they are supervising a child or accessing the children's/teen collections. Adults who access the collections need to take the materials to the adult area upstairs to use them.

Unattended Child After Closing Time

Parents are responsible for picking up their children prior to the library closing. The library staff will make every effort to ensure that children are aware of closing time and have transportation home. Library staff cannot provide transportation to any child.

The library may close unexpectedly for reasons out of control of the staff, such as a power outage, loss of heat, inclement weather, etc. Children will be given the opportunity to call parents/guardians for transportation.

1. If no ride has arrived within 15 minutes after closing time the staff will call the Dover Police Department. Two Library staff members will wait for the Police with the child.
2. Staff will record the parent's/caregiver's name, address, telephone number and the child's name.
3. The parent/caregiver will be given a copy of the Safe Child Policy.
4. Staff will refer any additional incidents of children not being picked up at closing to the Police Department.