

HENDRICK HUDSON FREE LIBRARY UNATTENDED CHILD POLICY

Parents and guardians, not Library staff, are responsible for the care, behavior and supervision of their children while using the Library and on its property. As the Library is a public place, the Library Board of Trustees has adopted the following policies:

1. Children through the age of 7 who are using the Library's resources shall at all times be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult caregiver.
2. Children age 8-12 years may use the Library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity. Children must have the telephone numbers of their parent, guardian, or other responsible adult, who may be contacted to come and pick up the child in case of a health emergency or other special circumstance.
3. As with any patron, a child's behavior is unacceptable if it disrupts the normal use of the Library by other patrons or interferes with the staff in the performance of their duties (see Library Code of Conduct).
4. Parents/guardians are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children's behavior and any materials the child views while in the Library.
5. Parents/guardians must be aware of the Library's hours and must arrange to pick up their children by closing time. Each caregiver shall make advance arrangements to pick up or have their children picked up by a responsible adult by closing and to inform their children what action they are to take in the event of an unexpected closing of the Library.
6. The Library is not responsible for an unattended child while in the building or if the child leaves the Library premises.