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Guernsey Memorial Library strives to be an inviting place for people of all ages to develop a love of books and reading, as well as a place to find materials which serve their informational, educational and recreational needs. Children are encouraged to visit the library and to take advantage of all of its resources.

Children of all ages are more than welcome in the library. However, the library is a public building, open to all, and it is the responsibility of parents/caregivers to ensure their children's safety and appropriate behavior. Stranger danger is real. Parents/caregivers are reminded that unexpected events may occur while their children are at the library: the child could wander out of the facility on his/her own; be approached by untrustworthy people who sometimes visit public building, be physically injured, or the library might close early due to some emergency. Library staff are not responsible for the safety and supervision of children left unattended or unsupervised by their parents/caregivers. A caregiver should be a minimum of 14 years old and actively supervising the child they are caring for.

For the purposes of this policy, an unattended child refers to a child that is alone in the library, or a child whose parent/caregiver is in the library but is not adequately supervising that child, whether the adult and child are in separate areas of the building, or when the adult is using library materials or equipment and is not supervising the child.

Please adhere to the following age guidelines for children in the library.

- Children under the age of 11 in the building or on the property should be within the presence and supervision of their parent/caregiver.
- Children, whether supervised or unsupervised, are expected to follow the same rules of public behavior as adult library visitors and may be asked to leave if they do not do so. If an unsupervised child under 11 is required to leave the library, library staff will attempt to contact their parents/caregivers but will turn the child over to the Norwich City Police if unable to do so.
- Children attending library programs that don't require parental/caregiver attendance should be picked up by their parents/caregivers directly when the program is over.

Children under the age of 11 found to be unattended or unsupervised in the library or on its grounds at closing or if there is some sort of issue or emergency, will be turned over to the supervision of the Norwich City Police if library staff are unable to contact a parent/guardian/caregiver.

We encourage parents/caregivers to update their family's contact information at the front desk, including current addresses and phone numbers in case of an emergency.

Revision approved by Board:**Notes:**