

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY'S UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY

The staff of the Chesterfield Township Public Library is glad your children are here! We want our library to be a welcoming, educational, and safe place for your child. The staff, however, has many duties to perform and must provide the best service possible to all our patrons. As a result, staff cannot monitor the whereabouts or behavior of our smallest patrons, your children, and cannot assume the responsibility of a child's care when they use the library.

The safety and welfare of young children* (**ten years old and younger**) left alone in the library is a serious concern to us. Although children may be able to occupy their time for a short while, unattended children often become frightened, anxious, bored, and disruptive, thereby, disturbing the enjoyment of the library by others. The behavior and welfare of children is, therefore, the responsibility of the parent or caregiver accompanying the child to the library.

Our primary concern is your child's safety:

- Parents and caregivers, age 16 or older, are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of young children*.
- Parents and caregivers must remain with young children* at ALL times while on library property.
- Children, like all library patrons, are required to respect library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library.
- When participating in a Library sponsored program, such as story time, the parent or caregiver **MUST** remain in the building.
- Older children and adolescents who come to the library without a parent or caregiver are welcome to use the library for homework, studying, reading, tutoring, any educational activity, or to check out library materials. Vandalism and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may serve as grounds for expulsion.
- Young children* **MUST** be accompanied to the restrooms.

Policy Regarding Children Left in the Library At Closing Time:

- Children **MUST NOT** be left on library premises prior to opening hours. Children **MUST** be picked up at closing time by a parent/caregiver or make suitable arrangements for their child's transportation.
- Two staff members will wait 10 minutes with any child younger than 16 years of age left on library premises after library closing time.
- After ten minutes, the Chesterfield Township Police Department will be called.
- Staff will **NOT** transport children home or to any other destination under any circumstances.

Group Visit Policy

The Chesterfield Township Public Library welcomes visits from groups, such as schools, daycare centers, and home-schoolers.

- Groups of children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Groups of eight (8) or more children must be accompanied by at least two adults.
- Teachers or group leaders are responsible for group discipline and must remain with the group during the entire visit.

*The Library defines a "young child" as one 10 years old or younger.