

Dover Public Library  
Policy on Unattended Children

The library does not provide care or supervision of children, except to the extent needed to uphold library rules of conduct and use, and does not accept responsibility for such care. Parents or other caregivers are responsible for their children's behavior.

Children under the age of eight may not be left unattended in the library, except during scheduled library-sponsored programs.

Children under the age of eight may not be left under the supervision of any child younger than thirteen.

Children age eight and older may be left unattended for a reasonable period of time providing they are mature enough to stay alone and observe proper conduct. Such children are subject to the same rules of conduct as other patrons and the same consequences, including being asked to leave the library. This possibility should be taken into account when deciding whether to leave a child unattended in the library.

Children of any age with mental, physical, or emotional problems which render supervision necessary must be accompanied by a parent or other caregiver at all times.

Children left unattended in the library in violation of this policy may be considered a child in need of care, and the matter referred to a child welfare agency, the police department, or other authorities.

Adopted: Nov. 6, 2003; Amended May 3, 2012  
Dover Public Library  
Board of Trustees