

North Grenville Public Library

Policy Type: **Operational**

Policy Number: **3.4.10**

Policy Title: **Unattended Children in Library**

Policy Approval Date: **Sept 10 2015**

Policy Review Date: **Sept 2020**

The North Grenville Public Library welcomes the use of its facilities and services by children. Library staff members are committed to the well-being and safety of children.

1. Role of Staff

Staff will assist children in using the Library for the following purposes.

1. Finding materials for school work and recreational reading.
2. Providing an environment that encourages study, intellectual curiosity and creativity.
3. Providing programs that inform and enrich.

Library facilities, however, are not licensed or designed to provide basic child care needs. Any public space may be dangerous for a child who is left unattended. It is impossible for the Library staff to guarantee a safe environment.

If a child is in the Library without parent or caregiver the Library staff may contact police. See Section 2.2

Library staff are required to notify the appropriate authorities if they have reason to suspect that there is evidence of abuse or neglect.

2. Role of Parents/Guardians

The library encourages parents/guardians to consider the safety and well-being of their children and the needs of other library users of all ages. Children under age ten must be attended by a parent or other responsible caregiver at all times while in the library.

If at any time the child is unattended the following will occur:

- 1) The parent or caregiver, if determined to be in the library, will be asked to stay with and supervise the child.
- 2) If it is determined that the child is in the library without an adult caregiver, a staff member will call the parents and request that they pick up the child. If the parents cannot be reached within 30 minutes or if they do not respond within 30 minutes, the police will be asked to assume responsibility.

Related Policies

3.5.1 Protection of Privacy and Access to information

4.5.1 Children's Services