Whippanong Library
Policy on Unattended Children

Parents may not leave children under age 12 unattended in the library.

- Children under age 6 – parent/guardian/caregiver must remain with the child at all times
- Children age 6-11 – may use library independently as long as parent/guardian/caregiver remains in the library at all times
- Children age 12 and over may be left unattended in library.

Parents are responsible for their children's behavior while in the library. Disruptive children 12 or over will be asked to leave after receiving warning.

Unattended child under age 12:

1. If child is lost or left unattended, a staff person should try to identify and locate the parents or responsible adults.
2. When the parent is located, explain firmly the library policy on unattended children.
3. If the parent has not been located within an hour, or if the library is closing, the staff member shall call the police.
4. Under no circumstances shall a staff member take the child out of the building.

Disruptive children under age 12:

1. Children who are being disruptive will be asked by staff to act in an appropriate manner.
2. If the disruptive behavior continues, a staff member should inform the parents that their child is disturbing others.
3. If the parents refuse or are unable to control the child, the family will be asked to leave.
4. If the parent cannot be found or contacted within an hour, or if the library is closing, the police will be called.

Disruptive children over age 12:

1. Tell the young person he/she is causing a disturbance and this is a warning.
2. If the disruptive behavior continues, contact the parent to pick up the child.

5/14/2025