

Child Safety Policy

The Dunkirk Public Library welcomes and encourages children to use its facilities and services. However, the Library cannot provide long or short-term care for children of any age. Parents, guardians, and/or caregivers should remember that the Library is a public building, open to all and must use the same precautions for ensuring your child's safety as you would in any other public location. While our staff is concerned about the well-being of our patrons, the Library is not responsible for keeping your child safe from harm.

Patron Accountability:

- Parents, guardians, or caregivers are responsible for the care, safety and behavior of children of any age while the child is using the library.
- **Children seven years old or under and not yet in second grade must be directly supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver while in the library.**
- A caregiver must:
 - be at least twelve years of age;
 - provide direct supervision of the child in his/her care;
 - not be using the Children's Room computers during the time they are supervising the child.
- Parents, guardians, or caregivers who do not attend a Children's Room program with their child must remain in the Library if the child is seven years old or under *and* not yet in second grade, in case the child needs to leave the program.
- Children seven years old or older and in second grade or higher may use the Library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity.
- All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.
- **The Library is not responsible if children leave Library property unattended.**

Adopted 2/28/2012

Inappropriate Behavior:

- Inappropriate behavior by children will be noted by the staff. Inappropriate behavior includes but is not limited to: not treating other patrons and library staff with courtesy and dignity; rough play and excessive running; inappropriate use of library property; and other behaviors as per the Library's User Behavior Policy. The child and parent, guardian or caregiver, if present, will be informed that his/her behavior is inappropriate and will be asked to stop the activity.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, the child and/or parent, guardian or caregiver will be asked to leave the Library. If the child and/or parent, guardian, or caregiver refuses to leave after being told to do so, the police will be called to escort them from the building.

At Library Closing Time:

- Children must be picked up before the closing time of the library.
- Unattended children will be asked to contact their parent, guardian, or caregiver thirty minutes before closing time. If a parent, guardian, or caregiver cannot be reached or does not arrive by closing time, the child will be placed in the care of the Dunkirk Police Department.

After closing time, Library staff will leave a note on the Library door stating "Unattended child is in the custody of the Dunkirk Police, 342 Central Avenue, Dunkirk, NY 14048; Phone no. 366-2266" once the child is in the care of the police. The child's name will not be listed on the sign.