

Children in the Library

The U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Public Library welcomes and encourages families and children to come to our library. We are committed to providing resources and programs that excite children about books, reading, and libraries and promote a learning environment. We encourage parents to be aware of their child's reading activities and interests, and to make library time a pleasant family experience.

Staff is here to assist children with their library use. Responsibility for the behavior and safety of children using the library rests with the parent or caregiver assigned by the parent and not with library personnel. Library staff will not supervise children.

Staff shall not wait beyond closing time with an unattended child. If an unattended child is in the building at library closing time, staff shall contact the Grafton Police Department. It is the policy of the library that staff members not transport children.

Children Age Seven (7) and under

The safety of children left unattended in the library is a serious concern. Young children left on their own often become frightened or anxious. No public place, including the library, can guarantee the safety of children. Children aged seven (7) or under, or children with special emotional and physical needs must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver assigned by the parent who must remain with the child at all times.

When a child age seven (7) or under is left unattended, staff shall:

1. Ascertain the name of the child, and the parent or caregiver who brought him/her to the library.
2. Assist the child in locating a parent or caregiver.
3. If a parent or caregiver cannot be contacted within 20 minutes, contact the Grafton Police Department for assistance. Staff shall stay with the child until a parent, caregiver, or police arrive.
4. Complete a library incident report and submit it to the Library Director by the next working day.
5. If deemed necessary, the Library Director shall send a letter to the parents or caregiver explaining the library's policy.

Children Age Eight (8) and Older

Children age eight (8) and older are invited to use the library and attend programs without parental supervision, provided their behavior meets the standards expected of our library patrons. Parents should be aware of when programs end and the closing time of the library. If library staff determine that any child is behaving in an unacceptable manner or is not coping adequately, staff will contact a parent or caregiver. If library staff is unable to contact a parent or caregiver within twenty (20) minutes, the Grafton Police Department will be contacted for assistance.

Adopted by the Grafton Joint Library Board September 26, 2011