

Unattended Children Policy

The Palisades Park Public Library is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for children of all ages. The library is not a childcare facility and cannot legally function as such as per N.J.S.A 30:5B1-1-15. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children follow the Library Code of Conduct.

Children younger than 10 must be continually attended by a parent or caregiver while in the library. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to be accessible, at any time, to pick up any minor left unattended in the Library. If a parent or caregiver cannot be located, the non-emergency Palisade Park Police Department will be notified.

Children age 10 and older may use the library unattended provided that their behavior is in line with the Library Code of Conduct. Disruptive children older than the age of 10, who are not following the Code of Conduct, will be asked to leave the library for the day. They will be permitted to contact their parents or caregivers and to wait in the lobby area by the elevator for pick-up. Library staff may request to speak with the parents or caregivers before the child is allowed to return to the library unattended.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring that children have transportation home once the Library closes. Parents and caregivers should be familiar with the library's hours of operation, including possible emergency closings. If there are any unattended children left in the library at closing time without transportation, staff will attempt to contact the parent or caregiver. If the parent or caregiver cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the non-emergency Palisades Park Police Department.

Parents or caregivers may request to speak with library staff. Any formal complaints regarding the above policy or procedures are to be sent to the Library Director: director@palisadespark.bccls.org

Approved by Library Board of Trustees 12/8/22