

Lower Merion Library System - Unattended Children Policy

Purpose

The safety and well-being of children left unattended in the library is of serious concern. Young children left alone while parents run errands, or even visit another part of the library, often become frightened or anxious. Our staff is happy to serve children of all ages, but they cannot supervise small children adequately while carrying out their work responsibilities. This policy seeks to address these concerns in a responsible manner.

It is not our intention to seek out unattended children, but rather to have a reasoned response prepared as problems present themselves. The word "parent" as used in this policy will stand for the child's parent, other mature relatives, family friend or neighbor, baby-sitter, or other caregiver accompanying the child.

Policy

Children under the age of seven must be attended by a parent or responsible care provider while in the library. If a child is participating in a supervised program, the parent or caregiver should remain in the building.

If staff cannot locate a child's parent or caregiver in the library or by phone within a reasonable amount of time, or before the library is scheduled to close, staff is authorized to notify the Lower Merion Township Police Department and ask for assistance.