

## **UNATTENDED CHILDREN**

The Smithtown Library welcomes children of all ages to utilize its facilities and services. However, the Library cannot warrant the safety of children nor can it assume responsibility for them. The following policy regarding the use of the Library by children and their parents, guardians or caregivers is adopted:

- Children, like all other library users, are required to abide by the Library's rules and regulations regarding appropriate behavior in the Library.
- Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the conduct of their children in the Library and must provide such supervision of their children as is warranted.
- Young people who have completed fifth grade, may visit the Library without a parent/guardian/caregiver. Those young people who have yet to complete fifth grade must be accompanied by a supervisor over the age of 14. Older youth may use the Library unattended provided they maintain proper Library behavior. Library staff will attempt to notify parents, guardians and caregivers if their minors are left unattended and/or require supervision. In the event a parent/guardian/caregiver cannot be contacted, the library will call for police assistance.
- Parents, guardians and caregivers must be aware of Library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and transport their children.
- If a child is unaccompanied in the Library at closing time, every effort will be made to assist the child in contacting his/her parent, guardian or caregiver to arrange for transportation.
- Under no conditions will Library staff transport children home or to any other destination.
- If a child remains after hours, two (2) Library staff members will accompany the child until his/her parent, guardian or caregiver arrives. If there is no parent, guardian or caregiver contact within 15 minutes of closing time, Library staff will call for police assistance and will remain with the child until the police arrive.

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**Policy 700-30**

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