

Broome County Public Library Child Supervision Policy

The Broome County Public Library ("BCPL" or the "Library") is committed to providing a welcoming, educational, and safe environment for all visitors. As we strive to support children and families as they explore, learn, and grow together at the Library, we ask that parents, guardians, and caregivers take responsibility for the safety and behavior of their children while on Library property.

Supervision Guidelines

- Children **under 11 years old** must be accompanied and supervised by a parent, guardian, or caregiver who is at least 16 years of age.
- Children **11 years and older** are welcome to visit the Library independently, provided they can follow the Patron Code of Conduct and are able to contact a parent or caregiver if needed.
- If a child under the age of 11 is found without supervision and we are unable to quickly locate a caregiver, the child may be placed in the care of a Broome County Security Officer to ensure their safety until a parent or guardian can be reached.

Additional Guidelines

While we love seeing families enjoy the Library, please note that the Library is not equipped to provide childcare services. To help keep everyone safe:

- Children should remain under the supervision of their parent or caregiver at all times.
- Parents or caregivers should stay with their children during Library programs unless otherwise noted.
- If attending a meeting or event on Library property, parents and caregivers are asked to keep their children with them during that time.
- For the safety of minors, any child under 16 who remains at the Library 15 minutes after closing will be placed in the care of Broome County Security.
- Library staff are not permitted to transport children under any circumstances.

Behavior Expectations

Children are expected to abide by the Patron Code of Conduct, and it is the responsibility of the caregiver to ensure they do so. Repeated or serious infractions may result in being asked to leave Library property.

Why These Guidelines Are Important

These guidelines help us protect the well-being of all our visitors:

- Young children may become scared, confused, or disoriented if left alone.

Broome County Public Library Policy & Procedure Manual

(Previous Policy #3800-0)

Effective Date:

- Older children may not be prepared to care for a younger sibling, especially if that child becomes upset or ill.
- Children left unattended for long periods may become restless or disruptive.
- As a public building, the Library cannot guarantee who children may encounter.
- Library staff are not legally authorized to provide emergency medical care or supervision.
- Children could unintentionally enter unsafe areas such as stairs, doors, or elevators.
- Emergencies such as a building evacuation may require quick adult supervision and decision-making.

We appreciate your help in making the Library a safe and enjoyable place for everyone. Thank you for working with us to support a learning-friendly environment for all ages.