

## Unattended Children's Policy

(adopted 7/1/09, revised 5/27/09)

Harborfields Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use our building and services. We strive to create an environment that is both safe and welcoming to all. The Library is, however, open to the general public. As in any public building, a child could be tempted to go off with a stranger, become ill or an unforeseen early closure could occur. Children wandering through the building may encounter hazards such as stairs, doors, furniture or electrical equipment. In addition, when children are left alone, they may become frightened, anxious or become bored and restless and potentially disturb the enjoyment and work of others.

- For the safety and comfort of children in the Library, children under the age of 10 years old shall at all times be accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible person (Parent, caregiver or mature adolescent age 14 years or older).
- Children, like all other library users, are required to abide by the Library's rules and regulations regarding appropriate behavior (Conduct) in the library. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Parents and caregivers, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of their children in the Library and must provide supervision to safeguard their children at all times.
- Parents and caregivers must be aware of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or 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 or caregiver to arrange for transportation.
- Parents will be notified if their children are left unattended and/or in need of supervision. If parents are unavailable, proper authorities will be contacted.
- Violations of this policy are grounds for suspension of library privileges.