

Unattended Children Policy

The Peterborough Public Library welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. Library staff are trained to assist children in using Library resources but cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of children left unattended in the building.

The Library considers a child to be 0-11 years old.

For the purposes of this policy, the Library considers a caregiver to be anyone 12 years of age or older to whom the parent or guardian has given responsibility for the care of their child(ren).

While in the Peterborough Public Library:

- Children 0-4 years old must have a parent, guardian or caregiver with them at all times, including when participating in programs.
- Children ages 5-9 must have a parent, guardian or caregiver on the same floor as them in the Library, unless they are participating in a library program. If in a program, parents, guardians or caregivers must remain in the library and pick up their child(ren) immediately at the end of the program.
- Children age 10 and over are welcome to use the library independently, but parents, guardians or caregivers are still responsible for the whereabouts and behaviour of their child(ren) while in the library.
- Children aged 12 and up are able to get a library card without a guardian signature.
- If a child is left at the library at closing time, or in the event of an emergency or closure, the staff person in charge will attempt to contact the parent, guardian or caregiver. If they cannot be contacted within 15 minutes, staff will notify the police.

The policy was reviewed and approved by the Library Board on October 8, 2023

