

## **Child Safety and Conduct in the Library Policy**

The Cumberland Public Libraries supports the right of all individuals to use our services. While children are particularly welcome in all branches of the library, children requiring supervision are the responsibility of their parent/guardian or a caregiver. Libraries are public spaces that are open to all citizens of the county, therefore parents/guardians or caregivers should not leave children unattended.

To allow for the safety and proper conduct of children in the library:

- Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or caregiver and cannot be left unattended at the library. Caregivers for young children must be at least 12 years of age, preferably older.
- Children under the age of 9 attending a library program may be left in the room or area where the program is taking place. However, the parent/guardian or caregiver must remain on the premises in case of emergency or if a problem develops with the child.
- Children who are disruptive must be controlled by the parent/guardian or caregiver who is present. Staff may require that a child who is disruptive leave the library.
- The presence of a parent/guardian or caregiver may be required for a child of any age whose behaviour is disruptive.
- Children who are 9 and over may be required to leave the library premises if they are not following the code of conduct laid out in the libraries *Patron Rights and Responsibilities Policy*.

When children under the age of 9 are in the library unattended staff will attempt to contact a parent/guardian or caregiver. If no one can be reached in a reasonable length of time the police are to be called. A staff member must stay with the child until police arrive.

### **Request for Information regarding Children in the Library**

Staff will not give information in person or over the telephone as to whether any patron, especially children, are currently in the library or have been in the library recently. If it is an emergency staff can take a message and will ask the patron to call back (if they are actually on the premises).

### **Telephone Usage**

Telephones in library branches are for business use only. Staff may place a call for a child who is looking for a drive home but children will only be allowed to use the phone in the case of emergencies. It is not the job of staff to relay messages to minors or to any other patrons in the building except in the case of emergencies.

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