

Middleborough Public Library
SAFE CHILD POLICY

The Middleborough Public Library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for people of all ages. The safety of children left alone in the Library and the children's garden is a serious concern of the Library staff.

The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children rests with the parent, guardian, or caregiver—and not with the Library staff. Therefore, subject to the Appropriate Library Use policy, the following rules have been established:

1. Children under the age of ten (10) shall be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent, guardian, or caregiver—who are 15 years or older.
2. The parent(s), guardian(s), and/or caregiver(s) of a child under the age of 12 may be contacted immediately upon the discovery of a child being left alone. If the child is not picked up within 20 minutes, the Police will handle the situation. (See 5c)
3. Children 10 years or older may use the Library unattended provided they are able to follow the Library's "Acceptable Use Policy."
4. Parents are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their child's behavior. The Library cannot and will not assume responsibility for any child, unattended or otherwise, either while he/she is in the building or after he/she has exited the premises.
5. Parents must be aware of the Library's hours and must arrange to pick up their children by closing. In cases of an unaccompanied child at normal or emergency closings, the Library staff will follow the following protocol:
 - a. Library staff will not transport or escort the child to any location off the premises.
 - b. Library staff will assist a child to arrange for transportation 30 minutes before closing.
 - c. A child under the age of 10 will not be left unattended at closing. Library staff will contact the Police Department to come and pick up the child.
 - d. Two staff members will wait with the child until the parent(s), guardian(s), caregiver(s), or the Police pick him/her up.
 - e. As result of 5c and 5d, the parent(s), guardian(s), and/or caregiver(s) will be mailed notification of *Safe Child and Appropriate Library Use Policy*.