



Hooksett Library Child Safety Policy

The Hooksett Public Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. However, the responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. A caregiver must be at least 13 years of age.

All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency.

Library staff members have many duties and cannot supervise children nor act as a substitute for daycare.

Please note, the library has 16 public internet computers which are not filtered. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to oversee children's use of the library's internet computers.

Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children between the ages of 5 and 7 must have a parent or caregiver in the immediate vicinity unless they are participating in a library program. Parents or caregivers who do not attend the program with the child should remain in the building. Parents are still responsible for the actions of their children.

Children ages 8 through 11 must be accompanied by an adult if the library stay exceeds one-half hour.

Parents are responsible for the actions of their children. Children using inappropriate behavior will be informed of the rules. If inappropriate behavior continues, the child shall be asked to leave the Library. If a child in this age group is unaccompanied by an adult or appropriate-aged caregiver, the staff will follow the directions below for children found on Library premises without a parent or caregiver.

If a child is found without a parent or caregiver or in the event of an emergency closing, the staff will:

- A. Locate the parent or caregiver in the Library and explain the Child Safety & Code of Conduct policies.
- B. Make every effort to contact the parent or caregiver who is not in the Library to come and pick up the child. Staff will express the Library's concern for the child's safety and explain the Child Safety Policy.
- C. Call the Hooksett Police Department to pick up the child, if the parent or caregiver cannot be located within 30 minutes. Staff will notify Director that police have been called.
- D. Encourage an unattended child to contact the parent or guardian if it is within 15 minutes of closing time.

- E. Remain with the child until the parent or caregiver or police arrive. This is compensated time for the two staff members who remain with the child.
- F. Leave a note on the Library door stating, "Unattended child is in the custody of Hooksett Police, 15 Legends Drive, 624-1560" once the child is in the care of the police. Names will not be stated on the sign.
- G. Not transport any child from the Library to another location.

Hooksett Library Board of Trustees: Adopted June 10, 2008, amended 06/04/2002 , amended 02/19/2013.