

Safe Child Policy

The Westborough Public Library welcomes children of all ages and offers a variety of programs and services designed to foster a love of books, reading, and learning. In addition, the library is committed to providing a warm, inviting, and safe environment for children and families.

It is important for parents and guardians to recognize that the safety of children left unattended in a public building is a serious concern. Responsibility for the care, safety, and behavior of children in the library rests solely with their parent/guardian or responsible caregiver.

To ensure the protection and well-being of children, the following policies apply:

- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and supervised at all times by a parent or responsible caregiver aged 16 or older.
- Parents/caregivers are responsible for their children's conduct while in the library.
- Children ages 12 and older are expected to follow library policies and hours of service and must be able to contact a parent/caregiver during their visit.
- Children whose behavior disrupts the use of the library by others may be asked to leave with their caregiver.
- Library staff are not responsible for the supervision of unaccompanied children at any time, during open or closed hours. Staff will attempt to contact a parent/caregiver; if unsuccessful, the Westborough Police Department will be notified.
- During library programs, if a child is age 5 and under, parents/caregivers must remain within view of the program.
- During library programs, if a child is ages 6–11, parents/caregivers must remain inside the library.

Use of the Children's Room

The Children's Room is reserved for children, their accompanying parents or caregivers, and those who wish to browse the children's collection. To protect the rights and safety of our youngest patrons:

- The computers, tables, and furniture in the Children's Room are reserved for children under the age of 12 and their accompanying caregivers.
 - Parents/caregivers accompanied by children may use Children's Department computers if no child is waiting, adequate supervision is maintained, and the Library's Acceptable Use Policy for library computers is followed.
- Adults and teens not accompanied by a child, and not using the collection, will be asked to relocate to the Adult or Teen areas of the Library.
- Adults and teens unaccompanied by a child may not participate in activities or programs designated for children.

Use of the Teen Room

The Teen Room is reserved for teens aged 12 through 18, and those who wish to browse the teen collection. To protect the rights and safety of our teen patrons:

- The computers, tables, and furniture in the Teen Room are reserved for Teens aged 12 through 18.
- Adults and any accompanying children, who are not using the collection, will be asked to relocate to the Adult or Children's areas of the Library.
- Adults and Children under age 12 may not participate in activities or programs designated for teens

Approved by the Westborough Public Library Board of Trustees September 2025