

TITLE: Safe Child Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Pelham Public Library welcomes the use of its services and facilities by children and their families. Staff members are committed to:

1. Helping children find materials for school work and recreational reading.
2. Creating an environment that encourages study and exploration.
3. Providing programs that inform and enrich.

REASON FOR POLICY:

It is not the library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for children while parents or other supervising adults are outside the children's area or the library building.

Parent should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals.

In an effort to provide a library environment that allows all patrons to use library materials and resources in a safe, relaxed manner, the Board of Library Trustees of Pelham Library has adopted a policy statement concerning unattended or disruptive children.

POLICY:

1. Children under the age of 9 may not be left unattended in the library and must be directly supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver 16 years or older.
2. Children between the ages of 9 and 11 may not be left unattended in the library and must be supervised by a responsible adult or caregiver 16 years or older.
3. Children over the age of 11 may use the library unattended provided that their behavior is not disruptive. Disruptive children, older than 11 years may be asked to leave the library premises after one warning.

Disruptive behavior is any form or behavior that seriously or constantly disturbs patrons or staff; damages library property; interferes with library service; or endangers the well-being of the disruptive child or others.

4. Disruptive children refusing to leave the library premises when asked, will be considered trespassing (RSA635:2 III (b) 2) and police will be contacted for assistance. The Library premises include the building and surrounding grounds, parking lot, street, and seating area at the portion of the Village Green adjacent to the library building.
5. Parents should be aware of the library's opening and closing hours and should make arrangements for the child to be picked up at the appropriate time. The library staff is not responsible for children who have not been picked up by the library's closing time.

Parents are responsible for the actions of their children in the library whether or not the parent is present. Parents will also be responsible for any disturbance or damage done to the library by their child.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees
(unknown)
Revised July 18, 2007*