

## **POLICY FOR THE BEHAVIOR/SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY**

The Staff and the Trustees of the Dudley-Tucker Library hope that the children who use our library will find our facility to be a warm and inviting place to develop a love of books, reading and libraries.

In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the following policy has been adopted.

1. Children are expected to adhere to the same rules as stated for all patrons with the following additions.
2. Parents/ guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library and may not leave the children under the age of eight (8) unattended.
3. If a problem arises with children of any age and we are unable to locate the parents or legal guardian, or if the library is closing the parents/guardians cannot be located, the police may be called at the discretion of the staff.
4. Children over the age of eight (8) should know how to reach a parent or guardian. Parents/guardians should be aware of the closing time of the library.
5. When children are left unattended, repeatedly and/or for long periods of time. The staff may notify parents/guardians of the library's policies.
6. Disruptive "attended" children:
  - a. Staff will ask disruptive children to behave.
  - b. If disruptive behavior continues, staff shall inform the parents/guardians that their children are disruptive.
  - c. The family may be asked to leave if parents/guardians refuse or unable to control their children.

7. Disruptive “unattended” children:
  - a. Staff will ask disruptive children to behave.
  - b. If disruptive behavior persists, staff members shall attempt to contact parents/guardian who are not within the building.
  - c. Parents/guardians shall be advised of their child’s behavior and asked to pick up their child immediately.
  
8. “Unattended” children at closing time:
  - a. The library staff will not assume responsibility for the welfare or supervision of any child.
  - b. Thirty minutes before closing time, the staff shall urge all children to call their parents/guardian.
  - c. If parents/guardians do not arrive by closing time, the police may be called at the discretion of the staff.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A STAFF MEMBER TAKE A CHILD OUT OF THE BUILDING OR TRANSPORT THE CHILD TO ANOTHER LOCATION.**

Adopted November 8, 1994