

South New Berlin Free Library

Unattended Children Policy

1. South New Berlin Free Library (SNBFL) staff cannot and will not assume responsibility for the safety, care, or supervision of unattended children.
2. Children, like all library users, are required to respect library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library.
3. Children age 6 or younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver age 16 or older while they are in the library.
4. At the discretion of the library staff, a child may be left to do homework if initially accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver.
5. If a child is attending a library sponsored program, a parent, guardian or caregiver is required to remain in the building during the program.
6. Children age 7 and older who come to the library without a parent, guardian, or caregiver are welcome for appropriate use of the library, such as homework or reading.
7. Library staff will attempt to contact a parent or guardian in circumstances such as the following:
 - a. An unattended child is engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other library users, staff, or the normal operations of library business
 - b. An unattended child is involved in a situation that is potentially harmful to the health or safety of the child and/or others
 - c. An unattended child is left alone at the library at closing time.
8. Vandalism and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may serve as grounds for removal from library property.
9. Parents/guardians of children caught vandalizing, stealing or otherwise damaging library property will be held responsible for any stolen, vandalized, or damaged property.
10. Parents, guardians, and caregivers should be aware of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children.
11. In the event that a minor child, age 15 or younger, is left after library hours and no one can be contacted to provide transportation, the staff will contact the Town of New Berlin Police Department or the Chenango County Department of Child Protective Services for assistance.
12. A child left habitually unattended is deemed at risk. If a parent or caregiver of such an unattended child age 12 or younger cannot be contacted or located within one-half hour of the discovery that the child is unattended, the library will contact the New Berlin Police Department or the Chenango County Department of Child Protective Services to take custody of the child.
13. Library staff will not transport children home or to any other destination under any circumstances.
14. SNBFL recognizes parents'/guardians'/caretakers' responsibility for the behavior and well-being of their children. We respect the privacy of all our library patrons and will intervene only when a child is deemed at risk.

Adopted by the Library Board: July 17, 2018