



**Dauphin County Library System
Children's Safety Policy
Board Approved: 3/17/2015**

The Dauphin County Library System welcomes children to use its library materials and services. We want each child to have a positive experience and grow their love of reading when they visit the library. Because libraries are public spaces, children may be at risk if left unsupervised. The care, safety, and behavior of the children is the responsibility of the caregiver of the children they are overseeing both in the library building and on library property. Children are subject to the rules set forth in the User Behavior Policy.

Caregiver is defined as: a person who gives help and protection to someone * Parents/guardians, teachers, grandparents, childcare providers or others bringing individuals or groups to the library are considered caregivers and are therefore responsible for the children under their supervision.

Children ages 10 and under must be accompanied by a caregiver in the library.

- Children ages 8 through 10 must be accompanied by a caregiver in the library or library grounds.
- Children ages 5 through 7 must have caregiver in the immediate vicinity and the caregiver must be in visual contact with the child at all times. Exceptions may be made during some children's programs.
- Children ages birth through 4 must be in the presence of a caregiver at all times.

Students 11 or older may use library without a guardian when school is in session with approval of the manager or supervisor.

The library staff will not supervise or be responsible for children of any age who are using the library. A supervisor will contact parents or Child Welfare when concerns exist regarding a child's extended stay in the library.

Children may be permitted to use the library phone for short calls related to safety, such as a call for rides, to confirm that they have arrived at the library safely or are preparing to leave.

The library staff will locate or page children for a caregiver if there is an emergency. Children who are left in the library at closing without a responsible caregiver will be turned over to local police if the caregiver cannot be reached.

Library staff is not responsible for children who leave the building.

Under no circumstances will library staff provide transportation for any patron.

*"Caregiver." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/caregiver>>