



MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

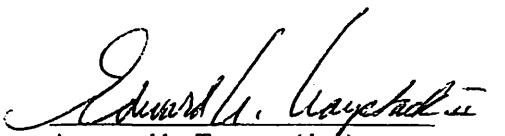
Safe Child Policy

The Melrose Public Library welcomes children of all ages and strives to create a warm, inviting and safe environment.

The library staff want children to use the library facilities and services. However, the safety of the children left alone in a public building is a serious concern. Young children are not safe when left unattended in a library or any other public building. In addition, children left alone for long periods of time can become bored, frightened or disruptive. **The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the child's parent/guardian.**

The Trustees of the Melrose Public Library have adopted the following policy to ensure the safety and well-being of every child.

- 1. Children 8 years old and younger must have a parent/caregiver in the immediate vicinity of and have visual contact with the child.** A caregiver must be at least 14 years old.
- 2. Children ages 8 to 10 must have a parent/caretaker in the library.**
- 3. Children ages 10 and older may use the library on their own.** Parents should not view the library as an alternative to day care or after-school programs. Children behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave the library. If a child of this age group is not able to leave the library without an adult, he/she should not be in the library unattended.
- 4. All children should have the telephone number of someone who can assist them in an emergency or unexpected library closing.** This is of particular concern in inclement weather and after dark.
- 5. The library staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the library is closing, but will make an effort to contact a parent/guardian.** If a parent or a responsible adult cannot be located within 10 minutes, the police department will be called to pick up the child. Under no circumstances will a staff member transport a child home or to any other destination.


Approved by Trustees (date)
November 20, 2013