



# 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 7 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 11 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.

June 6, 2022

Approved by Trustees (date)