

XIII. Family Responsibility Policy

The Craftsbury Public Library aims to provide a pleasant and safe environment for every child and adult who visits the Library. While Library staff and volunteers will do what they can to ensure this, it must be understood that the library does not act in loco parentis (in place of the parent). Library staff and volunteers cannot guarantee the safety of children left unattended in the Library. For the protection and well-being of children who enjoy the library, for the general welfare of all persons using the Library, and for the prevention of undue disruption of normal Library activities, the following rules and regulations apply:

1. The Craftsbury Public Library requires that families supervise their children while at the Library until the child is old enough to take responsibility for his/her behavior. Children under the age of 8 must be attended and adequately supervised by a parent or caregiver, unless special permission has been granted by the Library Director or Children's Librarian. If a child of any age is not meeting behavior guidelines (see #2), staff has the discretion to require that the child be accompanied by an adult while at the Library.
2. Activities or behaviors that library staff determine to be dangerous or disruptive of normal Library operations are prohibited. Examples of such dangerous or disruptive activities or behaviors include but are not limited to: loud talking or noises, running, throwing objects, fighting, or any other activities which disrupt other patrons' use of the Library, prevent staff or volunteers from performing their duties or create an unsafe environment for patrons or staff. Library staff have the discretion and authority to prohibit any activity which they determine might create a disruptive or unsafe environment in the Library, or which may cause damage to Library resources.
3. The Craftsbury Public Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended at the Library. Parents or guardians are solely responsible for the actions and safety of their minor children, whether or not parents or guardians are present. Library staff and volunteers will not enforce a child's presence at the Library or decide with whom they may leave the Library.
4. Library staff and volunteers do not dictate what activities are permissible or appropriate for a child. The Library does not censor reading material or internet activity, nor does it enforce or deny participation in a program or activity. If adults have expectations about a child's activities at the Library, it is recommended that they stay to monitor their children's activities.
5. If a child is left unattended at closing time a member of the. Library staff may attempt to contact the child's family to arrange safe transportation home. If these contact efforts are unsuccessful, the Library staff member may remain with the child until a responsible adult collects the child, at the staff member's discretion. The parent/guardian will be charged \$60/hour for staff time. Volunteers will never be held responsible for unattended children at closing time.