

## **Unattended Children/Child Behavior Policy of the Willimantic Public Library**

Service to children, parents, and adults working with children is an important part of the library's purpose. The library is free and open to unaccompanied children who are independent enough to use the resources for recreation, information, and education—within the following guidelines.

1. It is never the function of the library's staff or volunteers to provide supervision or care for unaccompanied children.
2. In accordance with Connecticut state law, 53-21 a-c, any child under the age of 12 should have a responsible family member or caregiver in the building while the child is using the library.

**Sec. 53-21a. Leaving child unsupervised in place of public accommodation or motor vehicle.** (a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

3. Parents and guardians are—at all times—responsible for the conduct and safety of their children in the library. Parents and guardians must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, abilities, and levels of responsibility of their children, bearing in mind that the library is open to the public.
4. Children, like all library patrons, are required to respect library property and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library (see the Willimantic Public Library Code of Conduct). Children who are not using the library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention or intervention, may be asked to leave. The parents or guardians of these children may be notified, and if necessary, asked to stay with their children while visiting the library.
5. Parents are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, and that the operating hours might change unexpectedly.
6. If a child is left at the library at closing time, the police may be called. Under no circumstances will a library staff member or volunteer drive a child home.

Failure to adhere to these rules may result in loss of library privileges.