

# **UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

## **MAXWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Serving children is an important role for the Maxwell Memorial Library. Children and their families are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunities the Library provides for reading, learning and growing. In welcoming patrons of all ages, the Library has a responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and comfortable for every patron who is appropriately using its services and facilities.

Parents should be aware that the Library is a public building open to all individuals. The parent, guardian or caregiver of a child is responsible for the safety and behavior of the child at all times. It is not the function or purpose of Library staff to provide supervision of or to care for children while parents or caregivers are inside or outside the Library. Staff will not monitor children leaving the Library.

Children under the age of 8 years must be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person (parent, guardian, caregiver or babysitter age 13 or older) at all times. If a child under 8 years is left alone, and Library staff are unable to locate the parent, guardian or caregiver in the Library, Library staff will contact the Camillus police.

Children age 8 years and older may be left unattended in the Library provided they are able to maintain proper Library behavior. Children are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct expected of adults. All Library users are required to respect Library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library. Children who are not using the Library appropriately, require excessive staff attention or are behaving in a dangerous manner will be asked to leave the Library facility including the Library property. Repeated violations of the Library Code of Conduct may result in loss of Library privileges.

Although the Library is free and open to unaccompanied children who are independent enough to use the resources for recreation, information and education, if a child is not able to leave the Library without an adult, he/she should not be in the Library without an adult.

Occasionally the Library may need to close without advance notice as a result of an emergency. Families are expected to discuss a plan of action for the child to follow in the event of an unexpected Library closure.

Adopted: March 21, 2016