

## **Unattended or Disruptive Children Policy**

The Katonah Village Library welcomes children to use its facilities for customary library activities. However, responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent, guardian, or caregiver and not with library personnel.

**Parents need to be aware that the public library as an institution does not have legal “provision of care” responsibilities.**

For the protection and well-being of children enjoying the library, the following policy has been established:

1. Children 10 years of age or younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult or a teenager (16 years or older).
2. Responsible caregivers must remain in the building while a child 10 years of age or younger is attending a program, story times or activities.
3. If a child 10 years of age or younger is in the building with a responsible caregiver but is not being supervised, and is either being disruptive or otherwise using the Library inappropriately, Library staff will inform the responsible party that he/she must supervise the child. If the problem persists after that warning, both the caregiver and the child will be asked to leave.
4. If an unaccompanied child 10 years of age or younger is found in the Library, the Library staff will attempt to locate his/her parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver in the Library. If the parent, guardian or other responsible caregiver cannot be found, the police may be contacted. If an unaccompanied child 10 years of age or younger is in the Library at closing time, the police will be contacted if deemed necessary.
5. Children ages 11 and up may use the Library on their own for a reasonable period of time provided they are able to maintain proper Library behavior. Children ages 11-15 using what is deemed inappropriate behavior by Library staff may be asked to leave the Library.
6. Library staff cannot provide transportation or money to children.
7. Library staff cannot take legal responsibility for a child in the case of a medical emergency.
8. Parents are legally responsible for their own children. The Library is not responsible for an unattended child, whether he/she is on Library premises or if he/she has left Library premises.

*Approved by the Board of Trustees July 27, 2010*