

JOHNSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Policy on Children in the Library

October 2019

The library hopes that all children will find the library a warm and welcoming place, but it is not the function or purpose of the library to be a child care center while parents or caretakers are outside of the Children's Department or the library. In order to create an environment of safety, the following policy applies:

- **The library staff is not responsible for the safety, care or supervision of children of any age, whether in the library or on library premises. Parents or guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children in the library as well as any damage they may cause.**
- Children under the age of 10 must be in the care of someone 14 years or older while in the library.
- Parents or caregivers should be aware of library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children.
- All children should carry with them the phone number of a parent or responsible caregiver who is to be contacted in case of emergency.
- Caregivers are required to be at the library 30 minutes before closing to pick up their children.
- Staff members are not permitted to escort a child home. In the event a child is not picked up by a parent or caregiver when the library closes, two library staff members will remain with the child for up to 15 minutes. **If the parent or caregiver cannot be reached, the Hackensack Police Department will be called to keep the child until the parent or caregiver can be reached.**
- Children being disruptive, fighting or being disrespectful to library staff or other children may be asked to leave.