

**Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library**  
**Brentwood, New Hampshire**

## **CHILD SAFETY AND UNATTENDED CHILDREN POLICY**

The staff and trustees of the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library hope that the children who use our library will find our facility to be a warm and inviting place to develop a love of books and reading, and to participate in library programs. The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library urges parents and caregivers to actively participate in their child's/children's library visits. The library attempts to provide a safe environment. The happiness and safety of young children left alone at the library can, however, be a serious concern. While the library staff seeks to create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for children, the staff is not responsible to care for, or watch over, any child or children left unattended.

The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library Trustees have established the following policies for unattended children in the library:

**Behavior:**

- Parents or caregivers are responsible for the behavior of children, not the library staff.
- Children age 12 and under or in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under must be closely supervised by a responsible caretaker (a parent, guardian, sibling, or mature adolescent) while at the library, unless the child is attending a library program that specifically states that participating children are not required to have a parent in attendance with them. The caretaker must be at least 14 years old.
- Preschoolers must be accompanied by the caretaker when in the rest room.
- Children age 13 and over may use the library unattended provided that their behavior is not disruptive. However, the parents or guardians are still responsible for their children's behavior and well-being when the child is at the library.
- If a children's behavior is deemed by the library staff as inappropriate for the library, and the child does not respond to appropriate guidance from library staff, the parent will be contacted. If the parent cannot be reached, the Brentwood Police Department will be contacted. The Director will contact the child's parent or guardian to explain the library policy and why the action was required.

**Closing Time:**

- Parents should be aware of the closing times of the library and should arrange to pick up their child/children before the library closes. If the Library is closing and a parent or guardian cannot be located, or the parent cannot pick up the child in a reasonable time, the Brentwood Police Department will be contacted.
- Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child from the library or give a child a ride home.

**Computers:**

- Parents should be aware that the library does not filter or block internet sites on public computers in accordance with the American Library Association's recommendation. See <https://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/factsheets/librariesinternet#:~:text=ALA%20strongly%20believes%20that%20laws,filtering%20technology%20in%20public%20libraries>. for more details.

This policy has been established by the Board of Trustees and is subject to periodic review and/or revision at the discretion of the Board.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 8/8/22
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