

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180

Children's Safety Policy

The goal of the Trustees and the staff of Stoneham Public Library is to provide a warm and nurturing place where children are welcome to develop their love of reading in a safe and inviting atmosphere.

Children of all ages are welcome to Stoneham Public Library. While it is the policy of the library to maintain a safe environment, the staff is not able to assume the responsibility for the safety and well-being of any child. The library is a public building, open to all. Parents and caregivers must remain vigilant at all times.

Any child under the age of eight must be supervised by a person fourteen years of age or older. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the appropriate behavior of their children while present in the library.

In order to make this possible, the following policies have been adopted:

1. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the library.
2. No child under eight can be left unattended. Parents/caregivers whose children are attending registered programs in the Activity Room within the Children's Library, are asked to remain in the Children's Library during that time.
3. Children who are disruptive will be asked to cease their disruptive behavior/ leave the library. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, disturbing other patrons, quarreling, moving furniture, aimless/ restless roaming, acts of vandalism, and the use of vulgar/abusive language.
4. Staff members will ask children who are being disruptive to stop the behavior. The parent/caregiver will be informed that the child is disturbing others and that the behavior must cease or the offending patron(s) will be asked to leave the library.
5. If a child under eight is unattended and the parent /caregiver cannot be located, the staff may elect to call the police.
6. If a child has not been picked up before closing time, the police will be called.