



Whitby Public Library

Unattended Child Policy

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The Whitby Public Library encourages and promotes children's use of the library and endorses the Ontario Library Association Position on **Children's Rights in the Library**. It is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to monitor the whereabouts, safety and behaviour of their children and to provide supervision that is reasonable to the needs of the child. Library staff cannot be held responsible for the welfare of children left unattended in library facilities.

Children nine years or younger must remain in the company of a parent or responsible caregiver while in the library. A child nine years or younger attending a library program need not be accompanied into that program by a parent or caregiver, unless otherwise indicated. Parents or caregivers must, however, be present in the building during the program in case an emergency should arise.

An unattended or lost child will be reassured by a staff member who will try to help them locate their parent or caregiver using established procedures.

Library staff are obligated by the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 14, Sched. 1 to call the Police or the Durham Children's Aid Society if they have any concerns about the safety and well-being of a child.