

Child Safety Policy

Flint Public Library welcomes children of all ages and encourages them to explore and enjoy the multiple resources and programs available to them at the Library. The Library strives to provide a safe environment for all patrons, including children. Parents and caregivers are reminded that the Library is a public facility, and staff are not responsible for unattended children, nor are they able to monitor children in a public place. Adults (age 18 or older) are responsible for the child(ren) in their care.

To enable Library staff to promote Library materials and provide resources and services to all patrons, the following guidelines have been established regarding children and safety:

- All children 10 years old and younger must be attended (accompanied and directly supervised) by a parent or other responsible adult at all times per Massachusetts General Law 119, Section 39. “Attended” means that the responsible adult is on the same level and maintains visual contact and verbal control of the child.
- At the discretion of a responsible adult, a child aged 11 years and older may be left unattended for a reasonable period of time (suggested – no more than two hours). **The child must know how to reach the responsible adult in case the need should arise.**
- Children and their responsible adult should be aware of the closing times of the Library. Children must be able to reach the responsible adult at all times, especially in cases when inclement weather or other unforeseen incidents require the Library to deviate from regular closing hours.
- If a child aged 11 to 17 has not been picked up from the Library by closing, two staff members will wait for a maximum of 15 minutes for the safe pick-up of a child. After that time, Library staff will contact the police to escort the child(ren) to the Police Station, where a responsible adult will be notified to pick them up.
- Library staff will not transport or accompany a minor from Library grounds.