

## **Ledyard Public Libraries Unattended Child Policy**

In order to create an environment of safety and maintain an atmosphere where reading and study can be encouraged, the Library Commission adopts the following guidelines with regard to children in the library:

- Parents and caregivers should be mindful that the library is a public building open to all individuals and that unattended children are vulnerable.
- All children under the age of ten (10) shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the conduct of their children while on library premises. These individuals must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, abilities and levels of responsibility of their children.
- The library staff is not responsible for providing supervision and care for children while their parents or caregivers are outside the library or in another part of the building. The staff does not monitor children leaving the premises.
- Children are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct expected of adults. All Library users are required to respect Library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library.
- Parents and caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, and to make suitable arrangements. Children still at the library at closing time will be allowed to call their parents from the library's phone for transportation. No staff member is obligated to stay with the child and under no circumstances may a library staff member transport a child in their car. The police may be called in emergency situations.

Parents and caregivers are referred to Connecticut General Statute 53-21a, which describes the legal consequences that can result from leaving children under the age of twelve (12) unattended in a public place.

Adopted by the Library Commission 04/16/2007