

SUSSEX COUNTY

POLICY ON UNATTENDED CHILDREN

In order to prevent undue disruption of normal library activities and also in order to provide for the general welfare of all persons using the library, and, in order to provide for the general safety of children using Sussex County Libraries, the following rules and regulations shall be and are made a matter of policy at the Sussex County Libraries.

1. All children age five years or younger shall, at all times, be attended and adequately supervised by a responsible person, e.g. an adult or a mature adolescent.
2. Children who exceed five years in age, but who are less than eight years in age may be left unattended for up to one-half hour in the library, except during scheduled library programs, at which time, that person responsible for the supervision of said child or children may elect to be absent for the duration of the program.

If that person who is responsible for the supervision of said child or children intends to leave the building while her/his child remains at the library, then that person shall leave word at the circulation desk as to her/his whereabouts.

However, persons responsible for children who have special problems, related to physical or mental ability, disruptive behavior, emotional problems, lack of adequate attention span, incomplete social skills, etc., shall remain with their children at all times. The above-mentioned exception or absence during supervised library program shall not apply to these children.

3. Children from the age of eight years and older may use the library unattended, subject, of course, to other rules and regulations promulgated by Sussex County concerning behavior, conduct, and demeanor.
4. If children are left unattended at closing, police may be called in accordance with established guidelines.

Sussex County Libraries assume no responsibility for children left unattended on library premises.