

## Safe Child Policy

The Floyd Memorial Library welcomes all children and their families to use its facilities, resources, and services. Responsibility for children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for the safety, behavior, and comfort of unattended children. It is not the library's role to provide short- or long-term childcare.

### **Please be advised that:**

- Parents/guardians and caregivers must always remain near and within sight of children under age five (5).
- Children up to and including the age of ten (10) must always be supervised by a parent/guardian or caregiver. Parents/guardians/caregivers must remain in the same area of the library unless the child is attending a program, in which case they should remain in the library building.
- Children aged eleven (11) through fourteen (14) may be left unattended for short periods of time provided they are mature enough to follow the library's [Public Behavior Rules and Regulations](#) and observe proper conduct. Library staff reserves the right to limit the number of hours an unattended child of this age may visit the library per day.
- Youths aged fifteen (15) or older may use the library unattended provided they are able to maintain proper library behavior in accordance with the library's [Public Behavior Rules and Regulations](#).
- Teachers and other group supervisors are responsible for the conduct of minors in their charge while they are in the library.
- In accordance with the library's **Internet and Computer Usage Policy**, library staff are not responsible for monitoring a child's internet activity while they are utilizing library computers. Library staff reserves the right to limit computer sessions.

If any child remains at the library past closing time, library staff will make every reasonable effort to contact the child's parent/guardian/caregiver. If the child is not picked up within 15 minutes after the library closes, staff will notify the Southold Town Police. Library employees are not permitted to drive or otherwise escort a child to another destination, nor to leave a child alone outside the building.

**Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any unsupervised child/children/youths deemed to be in violation of the library's Patron Behavior Rules and Regulations may be asked to leave the library or may lose their library access and/or privileges for a day or longer.**

*Board adopted July 10, 2023*