

**Oliver Wolcott Library**  
Policy on Unattended Children

The Oliver Wolcott Library encourages the use of the Library by children of all ages, parents, and adults.

It is not the Library's function or purpose to be a care center for unsupervised children.

In order to maintain a safe and orderly environment for Library use and to protect Library property, the following constitutes Library policy concerning the supervision of children:

1. Parents and guardians are responsible for the conduct of their children on Library premises at all times and must provide reasonable supervision of their children as is appropriate based on the age and level of responsibility of each child.

2. Parents and guardians should be aware of Library opening and closing times and make suitable arrangements to meet and/or transport their children.

a. The Library is not responsible for the care and supervision of unaccompanied children prior to opening and after closing.

b. If a child is unaccompanied in the Library 15 minutes before closing time, staff may assist the child in calling to arrange for transportation. The staff is not required to stay with a child after closing time. The Board of Directors has authorized the staff to call the police if the parent or guardian fails to pick up the child.

c. Under no circumstances will a staff member transport children to any destination.

**Children Under the Age of 8**

Parents may NOT leave a child under the age of 8 unattended in the library. Children under this age may not be supervised by an older brother or sister, unless they are a mature adolescent (at least 12 years of age), who can assume full responsibility for their care. The library staff cannot be responsible for the care and supervision of unattended children, nor can they assume responsibility for a child who is not being adequately supervised by their assigned caregiver.

Revised Policy Approved by the Library Board of Directors October 16, 2001