M.N. Spear Memorial Library Policy On Unattended Child

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library strives to be a welcoming and engaging place for children. Our library's goal is to nurture each child's curiosity and imagination while fostering a life-long love for libraries, reading and learning. A variety of materials, services and programs for children of varying ages are offered.

To provide the best service possible and to ensure the safety of every child, the M.N. Spear Memorial Library has developed an Unattended Child Policy.

- Children under age 10 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver who is 14 or older.
- A child age 10 or older may visit the library without a caregiver. Unattended children may remain in the library for reasonable periods of time, no longer than 2 hours.
- The library cannot be used for day care or extended after school care.
- Library staff cannot supervise unattended children.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's use of library materials and services. Library staff cannot monitor an unattended child's use of library materials.
- All children using the library are expected to behave appropriately. The library is an indoor facility designed to be both a social center and work space. Children may not run inside the library and must talk in voices that will not disturb other library users.
- Parents/caregivers are responsible for picking up their unattended children 5 minutes before closing time. If an unattended child has not been picked up by closing time, a library staff member will attempt to call the child's parent/caregiver. A library staff member will remain at the library with the unattended child for a maximum of 20 minutes past the closing time. If at that time the child has not yet been picked up, the Shutesbury Police Department will be contacted to take custody of the child and continue efforts to contact a parent/caregiver. Library staff are not permitted to transport children.

Approved by the Trustees of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library on December 7, 2010