

The Chelsea Public Library provides an array of services to children from preschool age to middle school age. The library offers story hours, Internet access, tours, homework help, advice on books to read, along with other educational and entertaining programs. The children's collection holds a wide assortment of fiction, folktale, picture books, nonfiction, audiovisual materials, reference materials, and public computers. Library children's rooms are reserved for children, their parents, guardians, teachers, caregivers. Adults who need materials in the children's department will be instructed to bring such materials to the adult department for browsing. If needed, checkout should be performed quickly in the children's department. Adults, not accompanied by a child, will not be allowed to linger in the children's department and will be asked to relocate to the adult department.

The library encourages frequent visits by children and their families. However, library staff cannot provide childcare or assume responsibility for children's safety. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the library rests with the parent/caregiver and not with library personnel. Library personnel cannot monitor the whereabouts of unsupervised children or be responsible for children who are demonstrating inappropriate behavior. Parents should be advised that if the conduct of their child is inappropriate, the child may be instructed to leave the library. Staff reserves the right to ask a child to remain out of the library for a length of time to be determined by the inappropriate behavior. Parents should further realize that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for the behavior of their children.

Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both children and adults need to be aware of library hours.

Unattended Children

An unattended child is a child of any age who is apparently unaccompanied by a responsible adult. Parents, guardians, teachers, and caregivers may not leave children alone or in the care of other children who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care. Supervising adults must be close at hand.

As in all public places, "stranger danger" is a real concern. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with persons who are not the appropriate chaperone.

If the library or juvenile department is closing, at a regular time or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian cannot be located in the building

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