



## **Children's Use of the Library Policy**

The Concord Free Public Library welcomes children of all ages and strives to create a welcoming, fun and safe environment for children to develop a love of books, reading, and libraries. We hope that families will take advantage of the tremendous resources the Concord Free Public Library has to offer. We request that parents and caregivers partner with us in this effort by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Parents and guardians, not Library staff, are responsible for the actions and safety of children visiting the Library.
- Children aged 9 years and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian or designated caregiver (aged 13 or older) at all times in the Library.
- If children aged 9 years and younger are attending a Library program, their parents or guardians must remain in the Library building.
- Children aged 10 and older may use the Library without a parent or guardian present. They must have a way to contact a parent or caregiver when they are unattended in the Library.
- If a child becomes separated from their parent or guardian, Library staff will try to locate the missing caregiver. If a parent or guardian cannot be located within a reasonable time, the librarian in charge will call the Concord Police Department, who will remain with the child until a parent or guardian arrives.
- If the child's parent or guardian cannot be located after the Library has closed, two Library staff members will stay with the child until the police arrive.
- Library staff members are prohibited from transporting children from the Library to any other location.

The Children's Library and Children's Room at Fowler is accessible to all, but the space is primarily intended for children up to 8th grade and for individuals for whom that space is developmentally appropriate. We strive to ensure that the space is safe, relaxing, and responsive to the needs and interests of children from 0 - 13 years old. For this reason, children aged 0 - 13 years old will be given priority for service and for the use of the space, including the furniture and computers.

Adults are permitted in the Children's Library and Children's Room at Fowler when accompanied by a youth or if the adult is actively using the collection/space in a way deemed appropriate by the staff. Unaccompanied adults may be encouraged by Library staff to use the facilities, services, and equipment in the adult sections of the Library. If the individual does not comply with staff direction or repeatedly violates this policy, the individual will be asked to leave. This policy has been developed out of concern for the safety of children in the Library.

*Approved by the Concord Town Manager and Concord Free Public Library Committee, November 3, 2009*

*Revised February 15, 2022*