

Unattended Child Policy

The Winthrop Public Library and Museum provides welcoming, age appropriate, environments for children in our Children's Room and the Young Adult Room. The Children's Room is designed for children 11 years old and younger whereas our Young Adult Room is for children 12 years old and older . Patrons of any age are welcome to check out books from either of these spaces however prolonged use is reserved for patrons within the age range. Children are welcome in other areas of the library when accompanied by a responsible adult, or library staff.

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that their children adhere to all library policies regardless of if a parent or guardian is present. The Library staff is not responsible for incidents, accidents or other events that may arise.

The Winthrop Public Library and Museum assumes no responsibility for the behavior or safety of children of any age in the library. Parents and guardians assume all liability for damage done by their children to the library facility, equipment, furnishings, or materials. The library also assumes no responsibility for any children outside of the library building or on library grounds.

Winthrop Public Library and Museum does not limit access to electronic information. Parents and guardians assume full responsibility for information selected and accessed by their children when using computers with internet access. No violent games are allowed to be played on the Children's Room computers. There is a limit of thirty minutes on the computer for each patron. Extra time may be requested and is given at the discretion of library staff. Parents and guardians are held responsible for any damage to computers or technology.

Children under 10 are required to be adequately supervised by a responsible parent, guardian or sibling over 14 years old. Library staff is not responsible for supervision. Adequate supervision means that parents are within eye sight of their child at all times. If a child in this age category is found to be unsupervised, library staff will attempt to locate a parent or caregiver. If a parent, guardian, or caregiver can not be located, the Winthrop Police Department may be contacted. If a child is found unsupervised on multiple occasions, the child and responsible adult may be asked to leave the library.

Children aged 10 and up are welcome to use the library unattended, provided they are able to use the library independently and without supervision. Children of any age needing supervision for safety or behavior should not be left unattended. Children ages

10 to 13 should not be left alone for more than **two hours**. Children are subject to the same behavior policy as adults. See [Patron Behavior Policy](#).

Disruptive children interfere with normal library operations and other patrons' use of the library. Disruptive behavior is considered to be behavior that represents physical danger to the child or others, or behavior that interferes with other library users or staff. Disruptive behavior that is inappropriate or unacceptable in a library setting may include the following:

- Running, chasing, or rough play
- Screaming, shouting, yelling or other noise
- Pushing, hitting, fighting, biting, or licking
- Using foul or aggressive language
- Bullying or bothering others
- Throwing
- Jumping or climbing
- Using the elevator excessively
- Treating staff or other patrons disrespectfully
- Having devices that make noise including cell phones, personal devices and toys are permitted only in silent mode.
- Leaving trash or other messes
- Damaging library property
- Disobeying library rules
- Engaging in any other behavior that the library deems inappropriate.

The Library Director has discretion to determine what is disruptive.

If a child, of any age, is disruptive they will be given one warning by library staff. If they continue their behavior they will be asked to leave the library. If a child refuses to leave, the Winthrop Police may be contacted. Children who are repeatedly disruptive may be asked to discontinue library visits until a parent or guardian is consulted.

Parents and guardians should pick up their children at least 10 minutes before the library closes. Once the building is closed, children cannot wait inside and staff is unavailable to wait with them. If a child is not picked up within 10 minutes of closing, and the parents or guardians are unavailable, library staff will contact the Winthrop Police Department.

Approved by Library Trustees February 12, 2026