

XIV-A

CHILD BEHAVIOR AND SAFETY POLICY

The Franklin Lakes Public Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. This policy is intended to inform the public and to guide the Library staff when confronted by children who are misbehaving or who are unattended. The Library recognizes that such circumstances may result from widely varying factors and conditions, and this policy does not take the place of the exercise of sound judgment in addressing particular circumstances. In circumstances addressed by this policy, the Library staff will follow the guidance provided herein and will exercise sound judgment considering all relevant facts. Library staff will not physically prevent a child from leaving the Library or assume responsibility for a child.

The responsibility for the care, safety and behavior of children using the Library rests with the parent/guardian or caregiver. As with any patron, a child's behavior is unacceptable if it disrupts any patron's normal use of the Library or interferes with the staff in performance of their duties. The Library does not function as a child care facility and cannot assume any responsibility or liability for children using the facility for any purpose.

Children through age seven (7) must have a parent or caregiver present in the library. Children eight (8) through twelve (12) may use the library unattended for an amount of time appropriate to their age and maturity provided that the Library staffer on duty has been informed of how to contact the child's parent or caregiver. An "Unattended Child Policy" must be signed by any parent leaving children unattended.

Library staff members on duty who observe unacceptable behavior will inform the child and the parent or caregiver, if present, of this policy. If inappropriate behavior continues, the Library staff will attempt to contact the parent(s) and request that the child be picked up immediately. If the child is unaccompanied by a parent or caregiver, the staff will follow the policy for unattended children.

In the event that the parent/caregiver is present, the staff member will notify them of the child's unacceptable behavior and refer to them to the Policy on Disruptive or Violent Behavior (XIV-C). If the behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be told to leave the library property. If the individual refuses to comply, the staff member will notify the police. An incident report will be submitted to the library director in the event of any violation of policy.