

## **Unattended Children Policy**

*Approved by the Board 1/23/2009*

The Saxton B. Little Free Library wishes to provide an environment that is inviting, pleasant, and safe for all patrons of all ages. Children are encouraged to use and enjoy library facilities and services. However, the safety of unattended children at a public library is a serious concern and should be addressed by parents and guardians.

Connecticut state statute states:

“Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation....that presents a substantial risk to the child’ s health or safety, may be guilty of a misdemeanor.” (Public Act NO. 97-298)

Responsibility for children using the library rests solely with the parent or other assigned caregiver. *Parents and assigned caregivers, not the library staff, are responsible for the behavior, safety and location of their children.* Library staff is not responsible for children coming to or leaving the building.

All children (attended AND unattended) are required to follow the Code of Conduct. Parents or guardians need to understand that if a child is not following the Code of Conduct, a staff member will address the issue with the child and/or the parent and guardian. Children over twelve years of age may be asked to leave the library. Parents or guardians of children under twelve years of age who are in violation of the code of conduct will be contacted and requested that their child be picked up immediately.

Parents and guardians are responsible for noting library hours and for making arrangements for their children to be picked up before the library closes, and parents and guardians must not leave their children at the library before it opens. If a parent or guardian does not arrive to pick up the child at closing, staff will make an attempt to locate the parent or guardian. If a child is unattended when the library is closing or a parent or guardian is unreachable when a child is in violation the Code of Conduct, Staff will notify the police department.