

BANCROFT PUBIC LIBRARY

CHILD BEHAVIOR AND SUPERVISION POLICY

The Library Board and staff are eager for children to use the library and welcome those who do so. Service to children is an important part of the library's mission. The library is free and open to unaccompanied children who are independent enough to use the resources for recreation, information, and education.

Children under the age of seven must have a parent, guardian, or caregiver in their immediate vicinity. An exception is made for children attending a library program such as chaperoned class visits. Parents should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals. It is not the library staff's function or purpose to provide supervision or to care for children instead of parents, guardians, or caregivers. Staff will not monitor children leaving the library.

Caregivers are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Furthermore, power failures or other emergencies can occur and may require unexpected closing of the building. Since children left alone outside the library can be vulnerable, every effort will be made to contact the parent, guardian, or caregiver prior to closing. If, however, a child is left at the library after closing time or as a result of an emergency closing, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member take a child out of the building or transport children to another location.

Children ages seven through 17 may use the library on their own. They are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct expected of adults. All library users are required to respect library property and to act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library. Children who do not use the library appropriately or who require excessive staff attention or supervision will be informed of the rules. If such behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave the library. The parent, guardian, or caregiver will be contacted. If necessary, the police will be contacted.

Adopted: July 11, 2017

Reaffirmed: May 10, 2022