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CHILDREN IN THE LIBRARY

The Avon Free Library welcomes children to use its facilities and services. Parents or guardians are ultimately responsible for the safety and welfare of children using the library. The library strives to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment, but cannot take responsibility for the care and supervision of children. Parents or guardians should ensure that children visiting the library:

- Understand appropriate behavior as described in the Patron Code of Conduct.
- Understand basic personal safety (e.g. “stranger danger”). The library is an open facility and cannot monitor children’s interactions with other patrons.
- Understand parental/guardian expectations regarding which materials in the library are appropriate. Library staff cannot monitor or restrict access to information.
- Have emergency contact information of a responsible adult (including address and phone number).
- Are in good health and have appropriate hygiene.

Children under the age of 8 must be under supervision of a responsible adult at all times in the library. Unattended children under the age of 8 will be placed in the care of a library staff member, who will attempt to locate the child’s caregiver. If a caregiver cannot be located, the police will be contacted.

Children aged 8 and over may use the library unattended. Parents and guardians are advised that, even in their absence, they are legally responsible for their children’s behavior. A responsible adult should also be conveniently available to pick up children in the event of an emergency, illness, or if the child engages in disruptive behavior.

Unattended children who violate the Patron Code of Conduct may be asked by staff to cease use of library facilities. In these cases, staff will work with the child to contact a responsible adult; if a responsible adult cannot be reached, staff may contact police. Serious or repeated violations may result in the child being denied unsupervised access to the library in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Patron Code of Conduct.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on April 30, 2018