



Policy Name:	Child Welfare Policy		
Section:	System	Effective Date:	January 26, 2006
Motion Number:	19-26	Reviewed Date:	April 25, 2019
Policy Number:	SYS-01	Next Review Date:	May 2028

The Barrie Public Library is responsible for providing a safe facility for public use. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to monitor the welfare and behaviour of their children at all times while in the Library.

The Library is guided by the terms in the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* with regards to unattended children.

Section 136 (3) “No person having charge of a child younger than 16 shall leave the child without making provision for the child’s supervision and care that is reasonable in the circumstances.”

This legislation does not specify an age at which a child can be left alone, rather the legislation sets out to protect young people from any type of abuse or neglect and requires that all parents and caregivers must make reasonable plans (which will vary according to a child’s age, maturity and circumstances) for the supervision of young people under 16 in their care.

To this end, the Library expects parents, caregivers and teachers to:

- Not leave children under 16, requiring supervision, unattended in or about Library premises.
- Monitor the use of services by children under their care.
- Be responsible for the appropriate behaviour of children under their care.

In this Library:

- Children ages 10 and over are welcome to use the Library independently on a regular basis, but parents or caregivers are still responsible for the behaviour of any children under age 16 while they are in the Library.
- It is recommended that children younger than 10 be accompanied by an adult while in the Library.
- Children under the age of 10 attending programs may be supervised by the Library staff only during the scheduled time of the program; their caregivers must always remain in the Library building.

If an unattended child is found in the Library, and the parent or caregiver cannot be located in the building, staff members may contact a local Children’s Aid Society and/or the Barrie Police Service. Staff will remain with the child in the Library until the proper authorities can take the child into their protection.

Under Section 125 of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*, “every person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection must promptly report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to a Children’s Aid Society.” This includes persons who perform professional or official duties with respect to children.