

# Jacob Edwards Library



## Safe Child Policy

*Approved by Board of Trustees: October 2013*

The library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all our patrons. Children of all ages are welcome in the library. However, parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are responsible for the safety, behavior, and supervision of children at all times in the library and on library property. The Jacob Edwards Library assumes no responsibility for children of any age left unattended at the library. All patrons must respect the library operating hours.

For the safety and comfort of children, a responsible adult or caregiver should accompany children while they are present at the library. Parents, guardians and caregivers may not leave children alone who cannot manage their behavior, or in the care of other children who are unable or unwilling to provide adequate care.

Children, as expected of all other patrons, must follow the rules concerning behavior and conduct, in order to maintain a comfortable atmosphere for all. Disruptive children may be required to leave.

If the library is closing at a regular time or in an emergency situation and a parent or guardian cannot be located in the building, the Southbridge Police Department will be called to take responsibility of the situation. The library is not responsible for children outside the building.

As in all public places “stranger danger” is a real concern. The library is an open public building and parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for the supervision of the child/children.